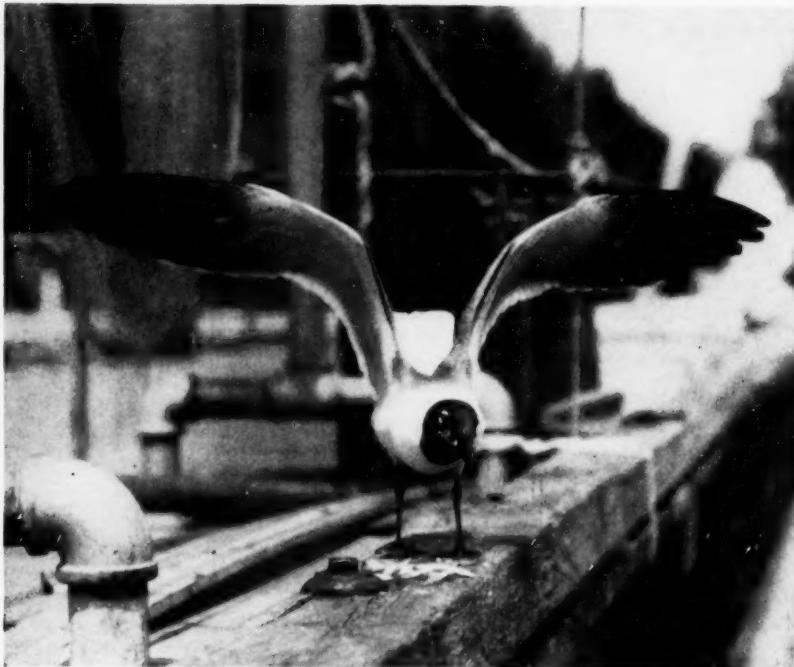


# The **BULLETIN**

OF THE  
**MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY**



**Volume XXXVII**

**MAY, 1953**

**Number 5**

# MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

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## FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILD BIRDS AND MAMMALS

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The Editor solicits the gift of articles, notes, photographs, and sketches, on the various aspects of Nature Lore, Natural Science, and Conservation of Natural Resources. If possible, articles should be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of the paper. Photographs should be on glossy paper with data attached. The Society is a non-profit educational institution and we offer no remuneration for contributions to the *Bulletin*. The Society assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or illustrations submitted for its use.

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Cover Illustration, LAUGHING GULL, Hugo H. Schroder.

# The President's Page

"To him who in the love of Nature holds  
Communion with her visible forms, she speaks  
A various language."

When seventeen years of age, William Cullen Bryant wrote "Thanatopsis" in the Hampshire County hill town of Cummington, and it was first published in the *North American Review* in 1817. Half a century later Henry Davis Minot was equally impressed with the beauty, the majesty, and the mystery of Nature in his early surroundings. His brother William wrote:

"His parental home comprised about thirty acres of land, sheltered by large trees and abundant shrubbery, with a varied, undulating surface, including also some acres of swamp. It stood on the edge of the Great Forest, which then stretched from Walk Hill Street to the town of Dedham on the west, and to the Blue Hills and the Great Ponds in Canton and Braintree on the south. Farms and small settlements were scattered through these forests, and there were large clearings where the timber and wood had been cut off, and had been followed by a free growth of New England shrubbery. Nature seemed to have fashioned this country for the dwelling-place of birds. The forests, the open farm fields, the thickets and hedge-rows and swamps, afforded every form of food and shelter suited to their wants; and most of the birds native to eastern Massachusetts, or occasional visitors there, could with careful search be found."

Mr. Minot begins the preface of his volume entitled *The Land-Birds and Game Birds of New England* (printed 1876) as follows:

"This book has been written from a desire to interest, if not to instruct, young people in that most attractive branch of natural history, the study of birds. If this purpose is accomplished, I trust that its deficiencies may be pardoned. In my early study of ornithology, I felt great need of some similar book; hence my attempt to supply it."

And Mr. William Brewster, in editing the third edition of this book in 1903, wrote:

"*The Land-Birds and Game-Birds of New England* is, in many respects, a remarkable and interesting book. Written by a youth of seventeen, with, as I am assured, almost no outside help of either a literary or scientific kind, it found favor at once, and for nearly twenty years has been ranked among the authorities on the subject of which it treats. It has evidently owed this popularity partly to the large amount of original matter which it contains, partly to the pleasant style in which it is written, and in no small degree, apparently, to the attractive personality of Mr. Minot himself."

A memorial tablet to Henry D. Minot, the gift of his nephews and nieces, will be dedicated on Mount Ann in West Gloucester in this late spring or summer. Mount Ann was given to the Trustees of Public Reservations by Mr. Minot's brothers shortly after his death in 1890.



## Birds of the Mastigouche

By MARJORY BARTLETT SANGER



HAL H. HARRISON

### The Magnolia Warbler Typifies Northern Forests

Roughly one hundred miles north of Montreal, in the Conté Berthier, lies a tract of wooded, lake-starred land, the property of the Mastigouche Fish and Game Club. And there, in mid-May of last year, we came, my father, my husband, and I, ostensibly to fish, but with binoculars and Petersons in hand because we sensed another promise in this remote near-wilderness. At St. Gabriel du Brandon we left our car and transferred tackle, duffles, boots, and ourselves to the Club jeep, because here was literally the end of the road; no ordinary automobile could climb the mountain of the Mastigouche that rose ahead across a long, verdant valley.

As we passed the moist, flat fields, out of an evergreen there rose a golden cloud, familiar now after the great invasion of last winter — Evening Grosbeaks, like old friends but startled, making off in bounding flight before we could begin to look for leg bands. A Great Horned Owl, so light he was almost honey-colored, swung out across the base of the mountain. "Hibou," said the French-Canadian driver.

I was to discover that almost all birds were "hiboux" to my fishing guide, an odd choice certainly for the bright warblers that sparkled in full sunlight and the great white Osprey that soared overhead. My father's guide, however, knew the names of two other birds, the "*Poule de bois*" and the "*Poule de pluie*," but what they were to us of course he could not say. "Fowl of the woods" might be a Spruce Grouse, I figured, my French being sparse and

literal at best, and the fowl of the rain possibly our Raincrow, or Cuckoo. One would have to wait and hope to discover.

In the meantime there was much to observe. On the quiet lakes at evening floated the Loons in pairs. In the morning came the American Golden-eyes and the American Mergansers. A female merganser had been caught in a muskrat trap and floated, drowned, a few inches below the surface. Over her, all day long, in listless circles, swam her mate. Kingfishers rattled from branch to overhanging branch, and in the reedy edges stood the American Bittern, frozen to immobility by our approach. Spotted Sandpipers (so this, then, was the "*Alouette*"!) flitted along the rocks, and the dark Solitary stood over his reflection in a shallow pool. From the same dead tree every morning the Olive-sided Flycatcher rolled his loud, intoxicated call, and along the same fallen log at the Head of Navigation the Northern Water-Thrush teetered and sang as we passed, unaware, it almost seemed, of our silent approach.

The first morning, when I looked out of my cabin window I could hardly believe what I saw. A small hemlock, only a few feet away, was covered with droplets of dew that glittered like gold in the rising sun. And in and out among this glitter moved dozens of Cape May Warblers, themselves seeming pure gold. No Christmas tree was ever more brightly decorated. And the next morning, as I leaned against the sill, regretting the fog that would prevent a repetition of the spectacle, I glanced down at the damp grass beneath me and at three Horned Larks sedately parading by.

From lake to lake we fished, our canoes quietly breaking water, rousing a Great Blue Heron from a fringed margin, or a Ring-billed Gull sunning on a floating log, while Ospreys, Northern Ravens, and Peregrines looked down on us. Between the lakes wound the portages under dense trees where the sun fell spottily or not at all, along woody ravines where the Winter Wren filled the forest with his incredible song and put in a brief appearance bobbing on top of a brush pile. Knee-deep in purple and nodding trilliums, bright with the bell-shaped Clintonia, pale with a drift of shadblush, the trails followed rocky streams loud with the fullness of spring and the monotonous chant of the Tennessee Warbler, then sank into swampy meadows where the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Ruby-crowned Kinglets sang, the Ruby-crown ending every song, it seemed to my ears, tuned now to French, with "*aujourd'hui, aujourd'hui, aujourd'hui*." Up hillsides climbed the trails, with the Black-throated Green Warbler singing his slow, wistful song, telling of summer days under green leaves, and the Parula, joyous in the mossy firs, and the Oven-bird from the needle-spread forest floor. And always under trees we went where the great oval holes and the scattering of chips attested to the nearness of the Pileated Woodpecker. Indeed we heard him often, shattering the stillness of the tree-lined lakes. "T.S.F." said my guide, and it was true, the punctuated staccato hammering was very like a giant telegraph, answered across the lake, across many lakes, a wireless for the wilderness.

But would we ever see one? Racing to the very tree, I would look up at nothing but a hole, lozenge-shaped, a chip or two still dangling from it. And then, from somewhere else, the message again, warning doubtless, spreading the alarm.

But here, walking toward me through the forest, came a Spruce Grouse, tame as a pet goose, handsome in its sleek darkness, its scarlet wattles blazing. "*Poule de bois?*" I asked hopefully, but the guides shook their heads, amusement glinting in their eyes, as if to say for all my books and glasses I'd never

be much of an ornithologist. The grouse jumped onto a low branch and surveyed us peaceably.

One day, along a wooded trail, we happened on an Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker. This bird, too, seemed quite tame, examining the bark of a tree as we examined him. "*Poule de bois*," said my father's guide, coming up behind us, his head emerging like a turtle's from under the canoe he carried on his back, and looking as pleased as though he had arranged to have the bird there for us.

The thrushes sang in the morning as well as in the evening, the Veery, the Olive-backed, and the Gray-cheeked, the last-named with his gray cheeks more clearly defined than I had imagined and his song harsher and not so pleasant as the others, but unmistakably thrushlike, as he flew down the rocky falls that tumbled into Lac L'Ecluse.

I had heard of the fearless predatory mischief of the Canada Jay and half expected to have to share my broiled trout each lunchtime as we ate by the edge of the portage, but when we did see him it was deep in the woods, flying softly, low against the tree trunks, a gray shape with a slurring call.

Warblers were everywhere. We woke to their songs, and their dark shapes moved restlessly in the thickets as we went to our cabins in the evening. Along the trails they followed us; at the water's edge they waited; Tennesseees, Parulas, Magnolias, Cape Mays, Black-throated Blues, Myrtles, Black-throated Greens, Blackburnians, Chestnut-sides, Bay-breasted, Black-polls, Ovenbirds, Northern Water-Thrushes, Yellow-throats, Canadas, and Red-starts. Once as we waited fogbound in an outlying camp, a flock of twenty or more Blackburnians clustered in a barely leafed-out tree and spent the afternoon moving like flames among the branches, lighting the dullness.

Behind the dining cabin at Lac Noel, another camp, Purple Finches sang in the pale green poplars in the morning sun. And on every trail the White-throat proudly proclaimed his *Sweet Canada*, while the aristocratic White-crowned foraged where the grass was cut and a lawn prepared for him. Flocks of Cedar Waxwings swooped into the alder thickets, smooth and lisping, with no feather out of place. And overhead, in the lime-colored leaves of a maple, a Scarlet Tanager scolded softly as we ate. "*Un joli oiseau bien rare pour ici*," said the guides.

And still the tap-tap, tap-tap-tap rang through the forest, the great code sent forth and replied to on a thousand trees, but with no sign of the bird itself. I must be content, it seemed, with my Arctic Three-toed. And then one morning at a portage my guide said simply, "*Poule de pluie*," and pointed. Across the sky then flashed a great black and white bird with a crimson crest. It could be only one thing. Excitedly I opened my Peterson, which I wore at all times suspended around my neck on a cord, and pointed to the picture of the Pileated Woodpecker. My guide nodded, smiling with pleasure. "Oui," he said. "*La poule de pluie*." But how had he known the bird was going to appear? I, alert at every turn, or so I believed, would have almost certainly been aware of it first. But there is an awareness, I discovered, born of life in the open, that no natural history book can teach.\*

\*In Jackson, New Hampshire, and some other White Mountain areas, the Pileated Woodpecker is known as the "Soft-weather Bird," and its calls are said to predict rainy weather.

If this "hen of rain" was an omen, it proved a false one. The sun shone and our mood of exultation continued. My husband had seen the woodpecker too, had had an even better view, watching it fight with and vanquish a Hairy, triumphing with its stirring *wick-a-wick-a-wick* that I had thought all the while was a Flicker! And my father had seen the rare Barrow's Golden-eye.

We laughed from boat to boat and chased the Loons that allowed us to come almost upon them before they dived to swim underwater an incredible distance and then rise, one never knew where until they reappeared, unperturbed and placid. "*Hibou*," said my guide, helpfully, as one rose unexpectedly in the very path of the canoe that shone pink now in the glowing sunset. "*Non*," I corrected patiently, "Loon." To my surprise he nodded and raised his eyes. And following his glance I saw that a great full moon had slid out into the cold green sky behind the darkening mountain of the Mastigouche.

### Audubon Field Trip

SUNDAY, MAY 24. Trip to Nahant Thicket, Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, and Newburyport area. Leaders: Mrs. Donald C. Alexander, Lee L. Jameson, James T. Kelly, and C. Russell Mason. Chartered bus will leave Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston, at 8:15 A. M. (DST), returning at approximately 7:00 P. M. Fare and guide fee, \$3.00. Fee for those using private cars and following bus, 75 cents per person. Reservations should be made a week in advance. Cancellations cannot be accepted after noon on Friday, May 22. Bring your own lunch.

### Brookline Bird Club Trips

#### Open to Members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| May 2, all day. Sudbury — Wayside Inn and vicinity. Miss Riggs, University 4-4229. Afternoon, Harold Parker Forest. Mr. Wardwell, STOneham 6-0391-M.        | May 19, morning. Mount Auburn. Mr. O'Gorman, KIrklan 7-5797. Evening, Mount Auburn, Mr. Sommers, MYstic 6-2167.  |
| May 5, evening. Lowell Street, Wakefield. Mrs. Beverage, MAlden 4-6143.   | May 20, morning. Boston Public Garden. Miss Lawson, CApitol 7-5618.  |
| May 6, morning. Boston Public Garden. Miss Lawson, CApitol 7-5618.  | May 22, morning. Boston Fenway. Miss Wild, CCommonwealth 6-6053.   |
| May 8, morning. Boston Fenway. Miss Hanson, CCommonwealth 6-1595.   | May 23, all day. Mount Auburn, Nahant, Newburyport. Mr. Lewis, CRYstal 9-1355-R. Afternoon, Nahant. Mr. Heston, REading 2-2741-W.                                      |
| May 9, all day. Mount Auburn, Nahant, and Marblehead Neck. Auto trip. Mr. Beattie, ELiot 4-6592. Afternoon, Mount Auburn, Miss Wollaston, BLUEhills 8-2750. | May 25, morning. Boston Fenway. Miss Hanson, CCommonwealth 6-1595.   |
| May 11, morning. Boston Fenway. Miss Hanson, CCommonwealth 6-1595.  | May 26, evening. Lowell Street, Wakefield. Mrs. Heston, REading 2-2741-W.  |
| May 12, morning. Mount Auburn. Mr. O'Gorman, KIrklan 7-5797. Evening, West Medford. Mrs. Allen, MYstic 6-5004.  | May 27, morning. Boston Public Garden. Mrs. Argue, KEnmore 6-3604.   |
| May 13, morning. Boston Public Garden. Mrs. Argue, KEnmore 6-3604.  | May 30, all day. Newburyport and Plum Island. Mr. Jameson, Beverly 1239-R.   |
| May 15, morning. Boston Fenway. Miss Wild, CCommonwealth 6-6053.  | June 2, evening. Horn Pond, Woburn. Mrs. Newman, STOneham 6-0812-M.  |
| May 16, all day. Automobile trip in Essex County. Mr. Little, WAltham 5-4295-J. Afternoon, Mount Auburn. Mr. Heston, REading 2-2741-W.                      | June 6, all day. Concord U. S. Wildlife Refuge and Nine Acre Corner. Miss Wollaston, BLUEhills 8-2750. Afternoon, North Reading, Mrs. Blanchard, North Reading 4-3198. |
| May 18, morning. Boston Fenway. Miss Hanson, CCommonwealth 6-1595.  |  |

## Some Trends in City Bird Life from 1870 to 1940

BY CHARLES F. WALCOTT, M.D.

The purpose of this paper is to give a summary of the changes in bird life which have occurred in a residential area of a city over the past seventy years. The data for the first two periods of observation, from 1860-1873 and 1900-1904, is found in *Birds of the Cambridge Region*, where William Brewster lists the birds resident in his garden. My own observations for the third period, 1940-1943, were made in an area sufficiently attractive to birds and close enough to the garden as to be reasonably comparable.

I have confined the discussion to permanent and summer residents, birds which either nest on the spot or wander through or fly over it with some regularity all summer.

In Table 1 the relative number of birds of each species during each of the three periods of observation is shown. This demonstrates clearly the changes which have occurred for any one species.

"Between 1873 and 1887 four of our six acres were cut up into house lots and rather closely built upon," wrote Mr. Brewster in 1900. The process has been a continuous one in the surrounding area, but the garden has remained untouched since that time.

Of more consequence to most birds, however, was the introduction of the House Sparrow. "By 1878 they had established themselves very generally throughout Cambridge. As the alien hordes multiplied and spread, several of the indigenous species which, up to that time, had bred numerously throughout the entire city, retired first from its central portions and finally beyond its suburbs. The Bluebirds, House Wrens and Tree Swallows were the first to go . . . they had nearly or quite ceased to breed anywhere in the thickly settled parts of Cambridge within ten years of the first appearance of the House Sparrows. The Purple Finches, Song Sparrows, Indigo Birds and Least Flycatchers disappeared more slowly, but in the end almost as completely." Mr. Brewster writes that those birds just listed were all that nearly or quite disappeared during this period, and that of the smaller birds the Redstart remained in undiminished numbers. This suggests that the omission of this species from the 1860-1873 list was an error. He mentions the larger, stronger birds, the Robin, Oriole, and Flicker, as being unaffected, while the Crow, Grackle, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak became more numerous during this time.

Between 1873 and 1900 the number of species resident in the garden dropped from thirty-two to twenty-five, of which one was the unwelcome House Sparrow. Of the twenty-three species which either diminished or disappeared, five at least, the Green and the Black-crowned Night Herons, Chimney Swift, Blue Jay, and Bobolink, were certainly not affected by the House Sparrow. Of the nine species that maintained their numbers, two thirds are larger birds as mentioned by Mr. Brewster. The Screech Owl may well have become a city dweller because of the easy food supply afforded by the numerous House Sparrows, while the Crow took advantage of the sanctuary the city affords from the farmer's shotgun.

Unfortunately, the adverse influences of the first thirty years have been more than matched in the last forty. Although the total House Sparrow population had undoubtedly declined, it is still one of the most abundant city birds, but its numbers are eclipsed by the introduced Starling, and its evil effects certainly equalled by the widespread spraying of shade trees. There seems little doubt that the spraying accounts for the disappearance of the cuckoos, vireos, warblers, and oriole because of the elimination of their food supply, for these birds survive still at such spots as Fresh Pond, where unsprayed areas are available.

During this final period the total number of residents has increased again from twenty-five to twenty-eight, four short of the original number.

Of the small birds which disappeared with the coming of the House Sparrow, only the House Wren and Song Sparrow have returned, both in reduced numbers. In the case of the former this seems to be part of a general increase throughout the Northeast.

Eight species of birds have appeared for the first time as summer residents during the past forty years. The Sparrow Hawk has followed the Screech Owl in adapting itself to city life, while the Herring Gull, with protection and the recapture of local breeding grounds, is rapidly becoming a familiar city scavenger. The Nighthawk has discovered the advantage of the tar and gravel roof as a nesting site. Three small birds have settled in, all star boarders at the bird-feeding station, all gleaners of the bark of trees, always winter visitors, the Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Black-capped Chickadee. The Wood Thrush has become a regular, and, it is hoped, a permanent summer resident. One or two singing males have been in the neighborhood for the past ten years, and a successful nesting has been reported at least once.

The most abundant bird in Cambridge today is the Starling, a most effective ally of the next most common species, the House Sparrow, in preventing the return of the Tree Swallow and Bluebird. I cannot see that it has as yet affected adversely the local Flicker population, but the noisy flocks in autumn deplete the crab apples and other fruit which might otherwise provide a winter food supply for more welcome visitors.

It is natural to become disheartened from the data presented. There is no question that as an area becomes more closely built up, with destruction of certain types of habitat, with conditions more favorable to alien competing and aggressive species, and the reduction of insect food as a result of spraying, native birds diminish both in number of species and in number of breeding pairs.

However, by studying Table 2, I believe a very encouraging trend may be seen, for though the total number of species now is less than in 1870, it is greater than in 1900. While during the first thirty years of observation only four new species appeared and twenty-five decreased, with nine holding their own, in 1940 the number in each of these three groups is almost exactly even. The dozen decreased is matched by twelve new or reappearing, and thirteen birds have held their own. The downward curve seems to have leveled off, and there is reason to hope it will begin to rise as more birds learn to adapt themselves to city life.

There is no question that the small home owner is taking more interest than ever before in his garden and shrubbery. More people than ever before are

feeding wild birds. In many cases large highways leading into cities have excellent plantings of trees and shrubs attractive to birds. With a little education and guidance in providing proper bird-houses, it is probable the Bluebird and Tree Swallow could be brought to the city again, where the House Wren and Song Sparrow have re-established themselves. Even now the city garden can enjoy a delightful variety of summer residents if the basic requirements of food, water, and cover are provided.

Table I

	<b>1860-1873</b>	<b>1900-1904</b>	<b>1940-1943</b>
More than 5 pairs	Chimney Swift Tree Swallow Robin Chipping Sparrow	4	
4-5 pairs	Least Flycatcher House Wren Yellow Warbler Baltimore Oriole Song Sparrow	House Sparrow	1 Starling House Sparrow 2
2-3 pairs	Bluebird Cedar Waxwing Purple Finch Goldfinch	Robin	1 Chimney Swift Robin 2
1-2 pairs	Wood Pewee Yellow-throated Vireo Red-eyed Vireo Redstart	Chimney Swift Least Flycatcher Crow Yellow Warbler Redstart Baltimore Oriole Goldfinch Chipping Sparrow	Blue Jay 8

TABLE 2

Period	Total Species	Diminished	Disappeared	Undiminished	New	Resappeared	Increased
1860-1873	32 species	—	—	—	—	—	—
1900-1904	25 species	14	11	9	4	0	0
1940-1943	28 species	3	9	13	8	4	0

### Sanctuary Evenings at Ipswich River

Five Thursday evenings, May 14, 21, 28, and June 4 and 11, are being set aside as "Sanctuary Evenings" at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield. Everyone is invited to bring a picnic box supper, which can be enjoyed at six o'clock. At seven o'clock there will be guided tours of the Sanctuary for observing the beautiful Arboretum of over 3500 species of trees and shrubs. Rhododendrons, azaleas, and carefully planned plantings of other spring and summer shrubs offer week after week of continuous bloom. A special nature walk is planned for youngsters under the direction of an Audubon teacher.

### Audubon Society of New Hampshire Elects Officers

At the annual meeting of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire held in March the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Professor C. F. Jackson, Durham, President; Tudor Richards, Center Sandwich, First Vice-President; Mrs. Chester Forsyth, Hanover, Secretary; Mrs. Clinton Wallace, New Hampton, Treasurer; and Mrs. Vernon C. Harvey, New Hampton, Membership Chairman.

## From the Editors' Sanctum

*"A well-groomed hobby will carry its rider comfortably over many a slough."*

So wrote Bradford Torrey in his *Nature's Invitation* in 1904, and it is as true today as it was in Torrey's time and applies to young and old alike. With a well-trained and well-groomed hobby, time never drags unduly, and interest in life never lags. On the other hand, we have all known people who were so devoted to their business affairs that they had "no time for hobbies," and who, when they reached the compulsory age of retirement, were completely lost for something of interest to occupy their minds.

Undoubtedly many, many of the readers of the *Bulletin* ride the same hobby which carried Torrey so comfortably, that of bird-watching. It is a hobby which has many different phases or points of approach, and which often carries one far afield in pleasant company. Some of us play "avian golf," trying to better our previous scores in identifying birds, making longer yearly or daily bird lists, adding new species to our "Life List," and in other ways exceeding our earlier observations. Others are satisfied with watching the behavior of our feathered friends, noting the skill with which a House Wren, for example, manipulates a six-inch stick into the one-inch opening of a birdhouse, or the quickness with which a Chickadee finds its way out of a bird-banding trap that completely foils most birds. Some of us find our keenest enjoyment in bird-banding and studying the travels or home life of individual birds. And still others, in ever increasing numbers, do their bird-hunting with a camera and proudly exhibit the results of the chase, in color or black and white, movies or stills.

It is a hobby which never becomes monotonous and which leads its riders down many enticing side paths. An interest in birds implies an interest in their surroundings and in their neighbors, animate and inanimate. It quickly involves us in a study of geology and ecology, botany and entomology, and of course it stimulates our interest in the conservation of our natural resources. We may specialize in flowers or ferns, in mushrooms or mosses or trees, in reptiles or insects, the life of the pondside or stream, seashore or mountains, the open country or the city park (or even a cemetery like Mount Auburn). "The more one knows about any one subject, the more interesting it becomes."

Get a hobby and ride it. It will carry you "comfortably over many a slough," be the actual journey short or long, and it will be a pleasant journey and a lasting one, with excellent companions.

The Editors.

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### *Listen to FM Program "In Search of Birds"*

On May 9 at 6:30 P. M., Station WGBH-FM will broadcast comments by Roger Tory Peterson and the British ornithologist James Fisher, recorded on our April Field Trip at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary on April 20th. If you enjoy the program, drop a postcard to Station WGBH, Symphony Hall, Boston, and tell them so, please.

## Wild Life at Prendergast Preventorium

BY BERNICE W. BILLINGS



Lan and a Friend Feed the Preventorium Birds

The Prendergast Preventorium for Children is located at 1000 Harvard Street, Mattapan, on sixteen acres of land heavily wooded with oak trees. The property is enclosed by stone walls and a six-foot fence. Very few cats visit the grounds, as one of the three dogs is sure to see them and scare them off. In summer there are many different birds rearing their young in what we call the Jungle, a thickly wooded stretch of land. In the clearing near the house are many bird baths, which it is the duty and pleasure of the children to keep filled with water. Both children and adults have a wonderful time watching the splashing which goes on from early morning until sunset.

A family of tiny owls have a nest high up in a tree, within fifteen or twenty feet of the boys' sleeping quarters. A Phoebe has made her nest in a niche under the porch roof for a good many years. On March 27 she came in from a long journey and looked very tired, lying in the little niche where she made her nest last year. On the same day, one of our staff saw a Bluebird perching on a stump in the woods. Last summer these birds were identified: Bluebirds, Pheasants, Scarlet Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles, Robins, Blue Jays, Downy Woodpeckers, Flickers, Chickadees, Brown Thrashers, Screech Owls, Phoebes.

In winter the children have many chores connected with their feathered friends. An eight-foot table is set up in the garden, some distance from the house. Lan, a young Chinese girl, took care of this particular feeding station all winter, going right after breakfast to cover the table with grain. The boys have charge of feeding the Pheasants in a secluded place under the bathhouse.

They take an abundance of grain, scraps from the kitchen, and cut-up green vegetables. Younger children take care of a good-sized feeding station on one of the porches, where Chickadees and small birds get their food.

In addition to the birds, there is a family of small brown Rabbits down in the woods, and Skunks too, which become so interested in the family life that occasionally they sit down close to the front door; and you may be sure no one goes out until Mr. Skunk takes off. For several years the Skunks have wintered under the girls' sleeping quarters.

There is a big oak tree with a crotch near the kitchen, and the cook and her assistants enjoy placing food in this crotch and watching the squirrels and Blue Jays which go there for food. All through the winter the children keep suet and peanut butter hung in the trees.

Several years ago, two small boys visited a pheasant's nest, and removed a clutch of eggs. As soon as the matron knew about this, she very carefully replaced these eggs in the nest, and the mother bird returned to it. The children were reprimanded. However, some days later the boys again visited the nest and removed the eggs. Once more the matron replaced the eggs in the nest, and again the mother bird returned and hatched out her brood, and as soon as possible guided them to a more remote part of the woods. These two boys, who unfortunately showed other signs of cruelty, were sent home.

There is one room in the house which is not in constant use in summer, to which birds with damaged wings and fledglings which have fallen out of nests which cannot be located are brought for care.

The Massachusetts Humane Society sent an educational worker six times last summer to give talks to the children. The Children's Museum loaned an exhibit of birds; the schoolteachers, in the school year, and the staff of the Preventorium create an interest in nature study by means of talks illustrated with pictures. Advice on particular problems is secured from the Angell Memorial Hospital and from the Massachusetts Audubon Society. It is a wonderful experience for these children who have lived in the crowded sections of a city to take part in the care and preservation of wild creatures which abound in these sixteen acres of woodland.

### June Bird Course at Berkshire Museum

Since there was an overflow attendance for the course on "Indoor Bird Watching" given at the Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, in the winter, early registration is urged for a new course to be presented in June. Called "A Bird Course for Late Risers," it is designed to aid people to become familiar with the birds about their homes, as well as summer residents of gardens, farms, and ponds. The first meeting, June 9, will be held at 7:30 P. M. indoors, but the rest of the course will consist of field trips, on Saturdays and Tuesdays, June 13, 16, and 20, at 9:30 A. M., and on Thursdays, June 11 and 13, at 2:30 P. M.

The instructor will be Bartlett Hendricks, Science Curator at the Berkshire Museum, who has given many courses on Berkshire birds. Several powerful telescopes will be available for those who do not own binoculars. A fee of \$2.50 will be charged, or \$2.00 to Museum members. All income will go to the Museum.

## Leadership for the Outdoors\*

BY WILLIAM GOULD VINAL, *Emeritus Professor of Nature Education, University of Massachusetts*



COURTESY BOSTON GLOBE

**Cap'n Bill (Professor Vinal) conducts a field trip at the first Massachusetts Audubon Conservation Workshop for youth leaders in 1948, of which he was the leader.**

Background history indicates that before the age of specialization in narrow fields of science Massachusetts had a rich heritage in the broad field of nature education. Louis Agassiz (1807-1873) at Harvard, William Otis Crosby (1850-1925) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Edward Howe Forbush (1858-1929) of the State Department of Agriculture were stalwart naturalists who furnished a long line of disciples. At the same time the Massachusetts Teachers Colleges were both interested in and capable of training students to teach nature study. This was due largely to eminent educators like Horace Mann (1796-1859), the first Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Education, whom Dr. A. E. Winship declared "by general consent the greatest educator that the Western Hemisphere has produced"; Lucretia Crocker (1829-1836), a graduate of the Normal School for Girls in Lexington (1850), whom George B. Emerson characterized as "the best teacher New England has produced." She was the first woman supervisor

\*A companion paper, "Outdoor Education is a Profession," appeared in *Education*, March, 1953 (6 pp.). There are about twenty categories (or jobs) in which qualified leaders may find employment. At present the demand exceeds the supply. Reprint 15¢.

and the first woman supervisor of natural history (1876) in the city of Boston; Henry Lincoln Clapp (1867-1921), Principal of the George Putnam School, Boston, the father of the school garden movement in city schools; Arthur Clark Boyden, Bridgewater Normal, 1871, and Principal from 1906 to 1933, the first president of the "Teachers School of Science"; Clarence Weed, Principal, Lowell Normal School, who emphasized insects in his writings, *Butterflies Worth Knowing* (1922) and *Insect Ways* (1930). These crusaders made Massachusetts a leader in nature study. Their zeal, devotion, and attainment have never been surpassed.

The Commonwealth rapidly declined from this enviable, vigorous period to a time when the demand for nature leaders could not be met. The normal school graduate no longer had confidence or security even to mention the subject of nature. It should be said, however, that during the 1940's the State Department of Education, through a committee which included Audubon staff members, wrote a new Course of Study in Natural Science for teachers of Grades 1 through 6, which was so much in demand that the first edition was quickly exhausted.

Fortunately there were private organizations that cared. In the June, 1939, *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society* there appeared a photograph of a "traveling Conservation Education Van." On the side of the Van was painted "Massachusetts Conservation Council." The Council comprised fifteen well-known, State-wide organizations, with particular interest in conservation. Funds for operation were at first secured from the sale of Wildlife Poster Stamps issued by the National Wildlife Federation and later from fees charged the camps visited. Frank W. Kingsbury, a senior at the Massachusetts State College, and William B. Nutting, a junior, were in charge. The truck was outfitted with sleeping bunks and exhibits. With proper fanfare and handshakes for the leaders from Governor Leverett Saltonstall, the outfit started on its summer wanderings from Boston Common to stimulate interest in conservation in twoscore camps and recreation centers. The Van operated from the Boston headquarters of the Massachusetts Audubon Society as a base, and that organization was to be the guiding spirit. The oldest Audubon Society in the country, it was now launching on a new period of nature and conservation service for children and youth leaders.

It will be noted that the two young naturalists selected to head the Van expedition were obtained at the Massachusetts State College. The starting of a new department in Nature Education (September, 1937) was due to several discerning champions of the out-of-doors. Dr. Hugh Potter Baker, President of the college at that time, was a descendant of the "Green Mountain Boys." His ancestors on both sides were early Massachusetts settlers. His native interest plus his rich experience with the United States Forest Service, as dean of the New York State College of Forestry, and with the American Paper and Pulp Association and the United States Chamber of Commerce gave him a broad outlook. Dr. Baker was a genuine naturalist and scholar. The new adventure in training leaders for the outdoors was to have headquarters in Fernald Hall. Dr. Charles P. Alexander, Head of the Department of Entomology (1938) and soon to be the first Dean of the School of Science, was the writer's first "chief." Dr. Alexander had been instructor in natural history at Cornell (1911-1917) and was associated with such personalities as Liberty Hyde Bailey, the Comstocks, and Dr. J. G. Needham. Dr. Alexander was a true disciple of the Cornell influence. Mention should also be made of the

Honorable Philip Whitmore, a distinguished Sunderland farmer and statesman, who was Alumni representative on the Board of Trustees, and of Mrs. Lotta Leach, another member of the Board, from Walpole. There were a considerable number of the faculty who were also friendly to the idea that all nature does not have to be perceived through a laboratory lens. The writer was indeed fortunate to be placed in such a favorable climate — in the midst of an institution where many men had become so concerned with corridors of science that they were paying scant attention to nature as a whole.

In Amherst Village lived Ray Stannard Baker, a brother of President Hugh Baker, who was perhaps best known for his *Life and Letters of Woodrow Wilson* (authorized biography, 10 volumes, 1927-1939), but who also wrote delightful essays under the pen name of "David Grayson." David Grayson once wrote: "I came to the hillside in the town of Amherst where I now live. I bought a few acres of land and built a house. I planted trees and cultivated my garden. I kept bees. I made good friends among my neighbors. Here I have known the best, I think, that comes to any man." His *Countryside's Year* (1936) interprets adventure in the simple things of life. To me he was "David Grayson," who gave nature study dignity in Amherst and who could express so well the intent of my work. I was to teach young men and women David Grayson's *Prime Secret of the Open Road*.

It was inevitable that the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the University of Massachusetts should work hand in hand. My efforts at the university were from September, 1937, to December 1, 1951. This was nearly coincidental with the development of the Audubon campaign for conservation education in the out-of-doors in Massachusetts. At the suggestion of C. Russell Mason, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, this is an attempt to put on paper some of my methods of training for outdoor leadership.

First, it is interesting to follow the roster of my students at the University of Massachusetts as they served on the Covered Wagon (Conservation Van) and the teaching staff of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

### The Covered Wagon

#### *Leader in Charge*

	<i>Advanced Degree</i>	<i>Present Work</i>
Frank W. Kingsbury	1939 Michigan State	Veterinarian
William Nutting	1940 Cornell	University of Massachusetts
George Erickson	1941 Harvard	Harvard University
George Sinnicks	1942	Lumbering
Elmer Worthley	1946 Brown and Maryland	Federal Research
William Randall, Jr.	1947 Minnesota	University of Illinois
James Baird	1948 Rutgers	Studying for Ph.D.
Marc Sagan	1949 University of Pittsburgh	In the service
Alfred Hawkes	1950 Johns Hopkins	Teaching in Maryland
Robert Wood	1951	Massachusetts Audubon Staff
William Whitmore	1951 Student	Student
Gilbert Walbauer	1952 Student	Student
Joseph McDaniels	1952 Student	Student

### Audubon Year-Round Staff

#### *Name of Worker*

<i>Name of Worker</i>	<i>Year Started</i>	<i>Number Years</i>	<i>Present Occupation</i>
Kenneth Pike	1940	2	Director, Camp Hi-Hill, Long Beach, Cal., Public Schools
Evelyn Bergstrom Melack*	1941	3	Housewife
Phyllis McInerny*	1942	2	Housewife
Winifred Wildes Munger	1943	3	Housewife

Mary S. Beitzel	1944	9	Mass. Audubon Society, Connecticut Valley
Frances Gillotti	1945	6	Mass. Audubon Society, Worcester
Dorothy Allen	1946	2	Housewife
Dorothy Snyder	1943	10	Mass. Audubon Society, Salem, and Curator of Science, Peabody Museum
Ann Guba	1950	1	Newton Schools
Robert Wood	1951	2	Mass. Audubon Society, Connecticut Valley
Barbara Robinson O'Neil	1951	1½	Housewife
Frances Sherburne	1943	10	Mass. Audubon Society, Boston

\*Left Audubon Society to serve in American Red Cross recreation during World War II.

These two tables make it evident that the University of Massachusetts has (1) been consistently supplying leaders for Massachusetts Audubon Society and (2) Massachusetts Audubon Society, in return, has been a finishing school for a notable list of outdoor leaders that are becoming nationally known. As long ago as 1939 school children learned from the Massachusetts Audubon Society that "Nature is Respectable" (*Bulletin*, Oct., 1942). Of the twelve men who served on the Van, all but one of the first six have doctors' degrees; three are college professors; Jim Baird and his successors will undoubtedly get their doctors' degrees. Five of the leaders of the Van have been naturalists in the National Park Service. At least five of those above have been awarded teaching fellowships or honors. This is a remarkable record and indicates the sincerity of purpose and quality of the university students joining the Audubon staff, and the inspiration of the work of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the Massachusetts Conservation Council. Two graduates had an important assignment in the New York City Public School Camp experiment at National Camp. Seven listed in the year-round staff of the Massachusetts Audubon Society were at Life Camps for one to three summers.

The twenty-three students who served the Massachusetts Audubon Society not only had to know their natural history but had to be fluent speakers, have skill in leading children afield, be good teachers, be morally responsible, and be versed in the use of audio-visual aids. I believe that without exception they are kodachrome photographers. When entering a camp or school they needed the personality that attracts children and had to meet a high standard of expectancy. They were also cognizant of the importance of the activity-experience program. They had served many years in camp programs. They frequently were called upon to lead discussion with school-camp staffs or to act as consultants. These young naturalists not only gave the Audubon Society a good start in their conservation education program but helped build it. The Van, now known as the "Covered Wagon," travels about five thousand miles each summer to about fifty camps in Massachusetts and the northern New England States. The camps are willing to pay the cost of helping to educate campers in conservation. The Audubon school program in Conservation and Natural Science has also grown steadily since 1939 to a total of 420 conservation classes in ninety cities and towns of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The program has been adopted in Florida and will, without doubt, spread to other States. The Massachusetts Audubon Society summoned these youth leaders to the great cause of Conservation. It is the writer's personal opinion that the Massachusetts Audubon Society does more for outdoor leadership than all the State Teachers Colleges of Massachusetts combined. It might be called the present-day crusader in this field.

Now, what are the steps by which nature students at the University of Massachusetts were prepared to guide children and adults toward peaceful enjoyment and more interesting lives in the open? It is certain that students had, first of all, to be selected because of personality, experience, interest, and capacity to see the problem of nature education as a whole. They could not be routine biology teachers, using the same textbook year after year. If they became mere fact-stuffers and reciters they would have a hard time. They could not be encysted in a narrow specialized field but must be generalists. True, they had to know their science, but they must also learn to translate science into terms understandable to the average public and move forward with humility. They had no tradition to defend. Instead, they had a spirit and philosophy of nature leadership to acquire. How was the opportunity acquired?

Inquiring students discovered the NATURE GUIDE OFFICE, where the first and last aim was to serve students and where an interview was always in order. It was a workshop for individuals, a conference place for small groups, a round table for three or more, an environment for creative expression.

Many prospective students began correspondence when in high school. Most candidates were contacted by majors in the work who brought them for an INTERVIEW. Such students had without doubt been indoctrinated by the upper classmen. Of nine Junior girls enlisted in the fall of 1950, 88 per cent had been on an honor roll, had been in an organized camp one to eleven summers — as campers and, later, as counselors; they had been in Girl Scouts one to eleven years and had developed into leaders; 66 per cent had a Red Cross Life Saving Certificate; all had either been in a choir, glee club, or chorale; six had been in a church choir; all had taken part in a play; all had either been on a high school paper or yearbook; three had been editors; five had been on a high school debating team.

"Working one's way," common to many students, was not essential, but those who did work their way were parties to an enviable tradition. Acquaintance with the workaday world; satisfaction in performing a socially useful work; and widening one's biological experience is always worthy.

An ALBUM SCRAPBOOK was employed. Every graduate in nature leadership was invited to donate his photograph for the album. Many graduates were news-o-genic. Their clippings were inserted alongside of their picture. This book was exhibited at times of interviews and was always shown the class on opening day in September. The graduates had gained distinction in interesting fields. It was a challenge to find a star to steer by.

A student learned at the beginning that he was becoming a member of a nature family of like interests. He realized that he was accepted on the basis that he was interested in nature, that he was more interested in people than in things, that he had capacity to grow, that he was willing to work, and that he was entering a new profession. One of the first assignments was self-analysis in the form of an AUTOBIOGRAPHY. He learned that what he was in the past, what he did in college, and what he hoped to be in the future was a continuous story. He was also introduced to the idea that *rigor mortis* of the mind can set in early in life.

The main TEXTBOOK was THE OUT-OF-DOORS. True, there was a good library of nature books where one might browse. The course was exceptional in not requiring a textbook or a notebook. A notebook was advised,

but only for the student's personal use. Curiously enough, nature students probably purchased more books in their field for future use than any other students. That the nature students did not suffer from such an unusual policy may be seen from an analysis of the twelve graduates in the class of 1949; 4 per cent of all graduates, and 25 per cent of graduating nature students, received *cum laude*; 6 per cent of nature students were elected to Phi Kappa Phi; 12 per cent wrote departmental honors papers; 40 per cent were awarded teaching or research fellowships in institutions of higher learning.

The PAMPHLET CASE SYSTEM was a feature of the course. It consisted of a collection of open cases which held such papers as reprints, government reports, magazine articles, and catalogues, alphabetically arranged by subjects. There were over five hundred cases containing thousands of articles. Pamphlets were more up-to-date than books. They were used by students outside the department as well as those within, for term papers and research, and were borrowed by graduates and even by students from other colleges.

A HOPE CHEST FOR LEADERSHIP was an outgrowth of the pamphlet case system. Booklets on a wide variety of natural science subjects were distributed to individuals. They became inoculated in "collecting" helpful literature right from the start.

A NATURE GUIDE CLUB and a Bird Club were instituted. Students elected their own officers in May for the ensuing year. There were no dues, constitution, or bylaws. There was freedom of assembly, acting, talking, thinking, and program, thoroughly informal and democratic. Speakers back from the service, those who had done something distinctive, celebrated visitors on the campus, Christmas parties, excursions, suppers, and skits provided some of the programs, according to the mood of the members. Students in the Bird Club were alerted by the Paul Revere method, that there would be a hike the next morning, an all-day observation of a hawk flight at Mt. Tom, a Christmas bird count, a field day at Arcadia Sanctuary, an opportunity to ride to the Berkshires, or a week-end excursion to Plum Island.

Each individual's experiences differed, but all called for educational responsibility in guiding youth. This not only required scientific facts but democratic action. Nature education is a process of making pure science understandable and usable to laymen. It was group work with attention to the individual rather than mass control. A naturalist in addressing himself to educate the public must steer a middle course between "mushy" nature worship on one side and zoology worship or dogmatism on the other. The naturalist has responsibility to youth and to society. The greatest scientists, like Pasteur and Audubon, were aware of obligations to humanity. It takes time for a student who has been subjected to the doctrine of specializing to realize that knowledge of subject matter is necessary but that it is a barren life if he does not open the windows to the wonders of all life. He must gain deep convictions as to the meaning of democracy, the great adventure of living, school-community integration, and moral rearmament. Outdoor education is a "way of life."

The transition from traditional college classwork in botany or zoology to a profession that calls for freedom, security, and partnership has to be won gradually. The Massachusetts Audubon Society furnishes the opportunity for a few outstanding leaders in the continuance of the common denominator and philosophy attained in the broadened college curriculum.

## Wood Duck Data Needed

BY CHARLES H. BLAKE

The editorial comments in the October *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society* on the decline of Wood Duck in New England lead me to put forward some ideas on the Wood Duck question. It has been recognized for some years that the Wood Duck is not at all closely related to our other "puddle ducks." The differences in habits are, of course, striking and well-known. Therefore, it is unreasonable to suppose that management methods or procedures for fixing hunting seasons or bag limits can be logically transferred from other ducks to the Wood Duck. It is equally unreasonable to use censuses or duckling production reports of puddle ducks generally as evidence of changes in the Wood Duck population.

It is not likely that anyone would deny that there has been a very large increase in the Wood Duck population of northeastern America in the last half century. Has the population reached its peak or, at least, a plateau which it might fall away from or climb above? I think the answer is "yes," but I do not know whether it is peak or plateau. I cannot say whether the population might become still larger under appropriate conditions. The answers to the questions just implied can almost certainly be found.

What I have seen on the recent history of the species seems to show that the increase was due jointly to protection and to artificial nest sites. It is more than possible that neither cause alone would have been adequate. However, the real start is supposed to have come from large-scale rearings in western Connecticut.

Since protection has been partially lifted in most of eastern America we have to consider the nature of hunting mortality. I propose as a thesis that hunting mortality is superimposed on natural mortality. This means that I assume that the Wood Duck spends the hunting season under conditions of food and shelter which are marginal or better. This is not true of all game species at all seasons. In some cases a part of the hunting mortality substitutes for natural mortality.

It should now be clear that there is much we need to know beyond mere general impressions. We may not speak of a "harvestable surplus" until we are prepared to prove that it exists. I submit that what we should know can be found out.

It is fairly easy to draw the main outlines of the knowledge required to reach a reasonable set of answers. The following list of items would seem to be adequate.

1. Age structure of the population and its variation from place to place.
2. Age specific mortalities.
3. Sex ratio.
4. Sex specific mortality.
5. Impact of hunting on the age structure.
6. Utilization by the birds of available nest sites.
7. Changes in numbers of usable sites.

These are the major items, although a number of subsidiary matters would have to be studied. A three-part program should yield the data needed.

1. Intensive and extensive banding and retrapping campaign, both summer and winter.
2. Study of nesting ecology.
3. Examination of natural causes of mortality.

Such a program can be carried out, but we should look briefly at some of its implications. It is a long-term problem. Judging from data on other ducks we could hardly expect preliminary results in less than eight to ten years, and clear-cut answers might well require a sustained effort running to twenty years. If the scheme were set up on such a long-term basis, some experimentation with bag and possession limits could be made. In fact, the project is hardly worth establishing unless there is the determination to carry it through. Half a loaf may be worth less than no loaf at all; it gives a feeling that we have the facts when we have only a poor estimate of them.

Second, the problem is so widespread in space and time that it will need more than hired labor. Both the work and the thinking of interested volunteers will be essential. They should be full partners in the enterprise, not just a supply of free labor.

Third, improved and specialized trapping methods and ways of securing bands to very young ducklings must be developed. Perhaps wing clips will prove better than leg bands for ducklings. However, the inception of the work should not wait until the methods are perfected.

I regard the issue as clearly joined. Can the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State game departments unlimber their thinking and their procedures enough to spearhead a program of this type?

### An American Bird Film in Austria

Miss Katharine Tousey, of the Audubon educational staff, who is now on leave of absence in Europe, is continuing to receive most complimentary notices regarding her presentation of "Audubon's America," the film produced by the Massachusetts Audubon Society to celebrate the Audubon Centenary in 1951, and which is being shown widely throughout New England. The following letter is typical of the reception of this outstanding film of American birds linked together with the story of Audubon's life.

THE FOREIGN SERVICE of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Amerika-Haus Graz, Austria, March 25, 1953

Dear Mr. Mason:

I think you might be interested to hear of the great success of the lecture given here in Graz a few evenings ago by your fellow member, Miss Katharine Tousey, on the subject "Das Leben der Vögel in USA."

Despite the usual flood of concerts and operas in Graz at this time of the year, each of which draws heavy attendance from this musical community, Miss Tousey succeeded not only in filling a good-sized auditorium but virtually filled the aisles with standees. And I am happy to say everybody present appeared to agree that it had been an extremely interesting and informative lecture. I myself felt that Miss Tousey not only revealed an extraordinary knowledge of her subject but had a delightful way of presenting it, with all the charm and enthusiasm that one might associate with the subject of birds and pastoral America.

With best wishes for the continued success of your Society, I am

Sincerely Yours, Paul A Shinkman,

Regional Public Affairs Officer for Styria and Carinthia

## Cook's Canyon Welcomes New Director



With the resignation of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Magee, who plan to give their entire efforts to the teaching of science, Cook's Canyon will be prepared on June 1 to welcome Mr. and Mrs. David R. Miner, of Upton, Massachusetts, to direct the Canyon activities and to carry on the conservation classes in northern Worcester County. The Miners will be introduced to the Audubon program with the opening of the Workshop and Wildwood Camp at Barre this summer, in both of which projects they will participate.

Mr. Miner is a native of Illinois and comes to the Society from the Wildlife Research Laboratory at Upton, Massachusetts, where he has been a wildlife technician. A forester by profession, he was graduated in 1948

from the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse, with a major in forest management and a minor in wildlife management. He had previously studied at the New York State Ranger School. His particular interests include photography, as applied to nature, soils and health, and meteorology. His work with the Department of Conservation in Massachusetts was interrupted by service in the Air Corps during World War II, after which he became associated with the Massachusetts Forest and Park Association, conducting a survey of all town forests in the State and advising each township as to the proper application of sound forestry practices. Earlier activities included the development of forest management plans for timber owners under the New England Forestry Foundation, employment on a large hay, fruit, and truck farm in New York State, participation in the camp program of the Boys Athletic League, Inc., of New York City, and timber cruising and other forestry practices for the R. W. Hillcoat Company, White Springs, Florida.

Mrs. Miner, the former Sylvia Louise Tyler, was graduated from Salem Classical and High School, being valedictorian of her class, and received her A. B. *magna cum laude* in 1945 from Tufts College and her master's degree in English from Syracuse University in 1947 under a teaching assistantship. She was an instructor at Syracuse in 1947-48. Mrs. Miner has also been associated with the Girl Scouts in day camp work. Her hobbies include, not only outdoor activities, such as horseback riding, hiking, and cycling, but she enjoys sketching with pastels, textile painting, gardening, and a variety of household skills.

The Miners have two children, Bradford Lee and Brian David.

### Notice to Bird Observers

Please telephone or write *promptly* to Mrs. Ruth Emery, at AUDUBON HOUSE (KENMORE 6-4050) to report any and all unusual or interesting birds, for the *Records of New England Birds* or for Field Notes in the *Bulletin*.

### The Endless "Why"

" . . . Knowledge of the world he lives in meant for this child not simply a collection of facts, but a basic feeling of familiarity and security about our existence . . . Young children do not desire information about the world simply to add to their fund of general knowledge, as we do. They need it primarily in order to feel secure. The endless 'why' of children's questions is the expression of this need, which is as basic to their development as their food."

Thus Dr. Ernest Harms describes the value of nature study in an article which appeared in *Nature Magazine* for April, 1953, entitled "Nature Study—Aid to Mental Health."

Dr. Harms expresses succinctly the principles which the Massachusetts Audubon Society teaching staff and camp leaders recognize and follow in planning the growing nature program for boys and girls offered by the Society. In the study of nature there is far more than the amassing of facts and the development of new techniques for adding to their knowledge. There is a genuine opportunity for building values in the life of a child, and for assisting young minds to accept and deal creatively with the world in which they live.

There is still opportunity to enroll your child in one of the various day camps or in the resident camp conducted by the Society, or for interested members to register for the Natural Science and Conservation Workshop, to learn more about the natural world and the techniques for leading children into the joy of nature study.

Below are listed the activities scheduled for the summer. If you have not received information about any or all of these activities, write to the Society now.

**NATURAL SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION WORKSHOP.** 16 years and over. June 14-27. A Workshop for training leaders and camp counselors, Barre, Massachusetts.

**WILDWOOD NATURE CAMP.** 9-15 years. July 5-August 15. A resident camp in natural science for boys and girls, Barre, Massachusetts.

#### Day Camps

Arcadia Sanctuary Day Camp. 9-12 years. July 6-August 14. Easthampton RFD, Mass.

Cook's Canyon Sanctuary Day Camp. 8-13 years. July 6-August 14. Barre, Mass.

Ipswich River Sanctuary Day Camp. 9-13 years. July 6-August 14. Topsfield, Mass.

Moose Hill Sanctuary Day Camp. 9-13 years. July 6-August 14. Sharon, Mass.

Pleasant Valley Sanctuary Day Camp. 8-14 years. July 6-August 28. Lenox, Mass.

#### Oil Paintings on Exhibition at Ipswich River

Many Audubon members and their friends will be interested to view an exhibit of oil paintings of Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary by Mrs. Ralph Lawson, of Salem, Massachusetts, which will be hung in the office of the Sanctuary the first three weeks of May.

## "So Much For So Little"

### A Quality to Cultivate

"With what enthusiasm we read of the work of your society — the *Bulletin*, the teaching staff, the centers, etc." So writes a valued member of long standing from California. And recently from faraway Japan came a letter with the gracious comment, "We all pay our respects to you and your group for the enthusiastic Audubon movement." Se we see that enthusiasm begets enthusiasm, and it is an important quality to cultivate in the promotion of our program of "Conservation in Action." We look for this quality in selecting our teachers and youth leaders, our staff lecturers, our office personnel, and other workers. We are sure, too, that this quality in our members brings more members, increased support, and has many other gratifying results.

We welcome the following new members this month and extend a hearty "thank you" to the friends who are coming up into the higher classes of membership.

#### **Life Members**

Hartman, Wilbur Lee, Amherst  
\*\*\*Weston, Donald R., Jr., Pittsfield

#### **Contributing Members**

\*\*Davis, Dr. William E., Bedford  
\*\*Eddy, C. Russell, Duxbury  
\*\*Gleason, Hollis T., Boston  
Grout, Harold A., Wellesley Hills  
\*Perry, Mr. and Mrs. H. H., Nahant  
\*Proctor, Mrs. Charles A., Swampscott  
\*\*Reilly, Mrs. Frank W., Auburndale  
\*\*Williams, Mrs. Julia French, Falmouth  
\*Yaeger, Clem L., New Bedford

#### **Supporting Members**

Alpers, Moses, Salem  
\*Bentley, Mrs. O. D. H., Dover  
Brigham, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H., Winchester  
\*Chase, Mrs. Howard E., Westboro  
Colford, Mrs. Elisabeth O., Georgetown  
\*Crocker, Mrs. Bigelow, Jr., Lunenburg  
\*Cushman, Mrs. Albert P., Northampton  
Derick, Mr. and Mrs. Orion P., Dennis Port  
Donaldson, Mr. and Mrs. Francis, Jr., Monument Beach  
Draper, Edgar F., Boston  
\*Gay, Joseph B., Brookline  
Hopkins, Mrs. Bessie B., Ayer  
\*Huiginn, Mrs. Eugene, Boston  
Johnson, Dr. and Mrs. Gordon N., Houlton, Me.  
Keir, Mrs. John S., Wayland  
\*Luce, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Atwood, Lowell

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\*Transferred from Active Membership  
\*\*Transferred from Supporting Membership  
\*\*\*Transferred from Contributing Membership

McIntosh, Cromwell, Jr., New Lebanon, N. Y.

Millard, John D., Arlington  
Orr, Mrs. J. Henry, Jr., Worcester  
\*Simmons, Miss Arlene, Brockton  
Stetson, Miss A. Louise, Quincy  
\*Stoughton, Mrs. Roger K., Beverly  
\*Sylvester, Mrs. Ruth M., Weymouth  
Waters, James A., Newton Ctr.  
\*Wood, Miss Florence G., Springfield

#### **Active Members**

Alexander, Mrs. D. C., Wellesley Hills  
Andersen, Kenneth M., W. Newton  
Andrew, Miss Virginia A., Fitchburg  
Arnold, Mrs. William H., Alton, N. H.  
Athearn, Mrs. Roy C., Fall River  
Authier, Mrs. Roland J., Vineyard Haven  
Baldwin, Miss Amy G., Chicago, Ill.  
Ballentine, Mrs. Joseph B., S. Wolfeboro, N. H.  
Barber, Mrs. Henry D., Hudson  
Barsamian, Sarkis, W. Medway  
Beale, John S., Concord  
Bell, Miss Marjorie, Boston  
Benson, Mrs. Charles E., W. Newton  
Beveridge, Mrs. Eliot P., Camden, Me.  
Bingham, Mrs. Norman W., W. Newton  
Bisaccia, G., Lenox  
Bray, Mrs. Scott, S. Chatham  
Brody, Mrs. Nathan, Laconia, N. H.  
Buck, Dr. B. J., West Hartford, Conn.  
Bulman, Mrs. Helen J., S. Yarmouth  
Burleigh, Mrs. Arthur C., Wellesley  
Burns, Mrs. David J., Montpelier, Vt.  
Campbell, Miss Louise, Watertown  
Canavarro, Mrs. George, Morgan Hill, Cal.  
Carey, Mrs. Everett J., Hyannis  
Clark, Mrs. Sheldon P., Needham  
Cole, Mrs. Ann S., S. Hamilton  
Corsini, David, Westwood

- Cronan, Miss Alice E., Chicopee  
 Currie, Mrs. Cyril B., Reading  
 Dahl, Francis W., Newtonville  
 Davis, Mrs. Harold E., Waltham  
 Davis, Mrs. Perley E., Granby  
 Doyle, Mrs. M. Marguerite, Milton  
 Dunn, Frank M., Jr., Walpole  
 Durgin, Mrs. Everett L., East Lynn  
 Eaton, Mrs. John N., Brookline  
 Evans, Mrs. Rose, Roxbury  
 Farr, John W., Pittsfield  
 Farrell, George E., Wellesley Hills  
 Fay, Amory, Chestnut Hill  
 Foote, Mrs. Earle F., Weston  
 Furber, Mrs. Mildred, Auburndale  
 Goff, Peter, Warwick Neck, R. I.  
 Greer, Miss Ethel E., Winthrop  
 Hall, Mrs. Mary, Boston  
 Hallock, Mrs. Arthur C. K., Wayland  
 Handel, Mrs. Carl, North Eastham  
 Harding, Mrs. Warren D., Bridgewater  
 Hardy, Mrs. George E., Fitchburg  
 Herbert, Mrs. William B.,  
     Wolfeboro, N. H.  
 Hitchcock, Mrs. James,  
     Greenville, N. H.  
 Holmes, William R., Everett  
 Horgan, Mrs. Frederick, West Lynn  
 Houghton, Miss Nathalie, Newton Ctre.  
 Hulley, Mrs. Albert A., Middleboro  
 Ingalls, Mrs. Edwin L., Taunton  
 Inoue, Dr. Yosoich, Tochigi-Ken, Japan  
 Isenberg, Mrs. Laura, Chestnut Hill  
 Jennings, Mrs. Thomas D. C., Sherborn  
 Johnson, Miss Elizabeth, S. Hadley  
 Jones, Miss Suzanne, Brookline  
 Kimball, Mrs. Paul W., Milton  
 Knightly, Mrs. Albert P.,  
     Corham, N. H.  
 Lake, Miss Susan, G., Richmond  
 Lambert, Mrs. Esther, Weston  
 LeBuff, Mrs. Herbert C., Sharon  
 Lewis, Mrs. Leslie H., E. Orleans  
 Libby, Mrs. Preble H., Salisbury  
 Littlefield, Mrs. Walter B., Auburndale  
 Lyford, Mrs. Harry, Wayland  
 Lynde, Miss Arlene M., Newton Ctre.  
 Lyon, Mrs. James, Swampscott  
 MacDonald, Mrs. Malcolm A.,  
     Needham Hgts.  
 MacPhie, Mrs. Elmore L. W., Newton  
 Marcy, Miss Esther,  
     Newton Upper Falls  
 Mayo, Mrs. Clarence, Orleans  
 Merry, William, Vineyard Haven  
 Millikin, Mrs. Dudley L., Needham  
 Milliner, Mrs. Arthur, Wolfeboro, N. H.  
 Milne, Mrs. W. D., Lexington  
 Morris, Miss Elizabeth H.,  
     Wellesley Hills  
 Morse, Mrs. Thomas R., Jr., Cambridge  
 Nakaima, Toshihiro F.,  
     Tochigi-Ken, Japan  
 Newton, Miss Hazel, S. Lincoln  
 Odiorne, Mrs. Robert C., Sharon  
 O'Neill, Mrs. Clarence J., Orleans  
 Paris, Mrs. Eudora, Roxbury  
 Parks, Mrs. Vera L., Lexington  
 Peters, Mrs. Mary, Wellfleet  
 Phillips, Mrs. E. W., Cambridge  
 Pride, Mrs. Edward W., W. Newton  
 Reed, Mrs. Jessie E., Scituate  
 Rich, Mrs. Stanley W.,  
     Sanbornville, N. H.  
 Richards, Miss Edith, Boston  
 Ritchie, Mrs. Mae E., Lexington  
 Robinson, Mrs. Hazel, Terryville, Conn.  
 Roche, Miss Mary F., Boston  
 Rudolph, Frederick, Williamstown  
 Sayward, William S., Slatersville, R. I.  
 Scarborough, Mrs. Clara R., Boston  
 Sears, Leslie R., E. Dennis  
 Shannon, Parker, Brighton  
 Shaw, Robert J., Beverly  
 Smith, Miss Edith, Eastham  
 Smith, Silvanus, Winchester  
 Smith, Miss Susan, Chestnut Hill  
 Snelling, Mrs. Jessica H., Weston  
 Sprague, L. L., N. Andover  
 Stow, Mrs. Leslie T., Townsend Harbor  
 Swan, Mrs. Robert, Jr., Hyannis Port  
 Taisey, Mrs. Richard C., Lexington  
 Thornton, Miss Mary E., Cambridge  
 Titus, Walter F., Cambridge  
 Ware, Miss Elizabeth, Hingham  
 Washburn, Mrs. Elliot, Sharon  
 Watts, Miss Gertrude H., E. Boston  
 Webb, Mrs. Harry J., Franklin  
 Webb, Mrs. Isabel, Wellesley  
 Weber, Helmuth C., Marshfield  
 Weeks, Richard, Brookline  
 West, Mrs. Elizabeth, Arlington  
 Whiting, Miss Pauline, Boston  
 Wilcox, Mrs. Robert, Orleans  
 Williams, Mrs. Roger, Jr., Milton  
 Wills, John, Melrose

### South Dakota Calling!

The South Dakota Ornithological Union, organized in 1949, is publishing a quarterly bulletin, *South Dakota Bird Notes*, and the editor, H. F. Chapman, 516 Security Bank Bldg., Sioux Falls, S. D., would appreciate receiving any notes on the bird life of that region which might be contributed by any of the members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. As he expresses it, "Any help will be a lot of help."

### Notes from Our Sanctuaries

**COOK'S CANYON.** Watching a stubble-covered field in February as flock after flock of Redpolls left it to fly across the highway to the more remote fields beyond, we tried to estimate their number. Most of us felt that the entire flock could be conservatively said to number well over a thousand. It was interesting to note their tendency to fly within a foot or two of the ground, or if perched in the trees, to remain there only momentarily before investigating other fields. After most of the flock had departed we hunted in a large brush pile until we discovered one of the brightly red-capped birds at close range — even then he was timid. It was not until early March that they ventured in small numbers to enter our feeding area at headquarters. The difference in behavior, however, was gratifying — one bird fed for over half an hour while various persons approached to within four feet of the table while he fed upon it or hopped about in the near-by bushes.

During the winter evenings we had time to complete the banding records which the previous busy season had delayed. It is interesting to note that of the 1051 individuals banded between May 1, 1951, and April 30, 1952, 443 were Evening Grosbeaks. All but one of the 35 foreign bands which were taken during the period were Evening Grosbeaks. The lone exception was a Purple Finch. Perhaps the most unusual record was a late occurrence of the Grasshopper Sparrow in October of 1951, and then there were the Red-breasted Nuthatches, one of which we banded in the pine grove while his companion perched within a foot of us. Our favorite still remains, however, a family of Killdeers. In May, the four baby Killdeers, were brought to the Sanctuary to be cared for, as the person who found them felt they would be killed by a near-by cat. They were immediately placed in a cage and rushed back to the field from whence they came. Here it was only a few minutes before the mother Killdeer found them and artfully tried to attract attention with her "injured" wing. The cage was then covered with grass and surrounded by banding traps. When mother returned for her next inspection of her brood she was caught and banded, and the entire family moved back to the Sanctuary, where they were released in an adjacent ploughed field. There we observed them with pleasure throughout the summer of 1951, and there appeared to be no mortality. Killdeers again appeared in the field in the summer of 1952, and while we did not have an opportunity to re-trap them, we rather suspect that some of the family returned, and we are hopeful that they will be there again this coming season.

LEON A. P. MAGEE

**ARCADIA.** The last third of March in 1953 saw a great gathering of birds at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Blackbirds, both Red-wings and Rusties, called from treetops, grackle flocks streamed across the sky, pairs of Wood Duck went hither and thither, the females calling as they went searching for a nest site, while Purple Finches and Song Sparrows sang uninhibited songs of spring joy all over the place. Earlier, spectacular movements of American Mergansers in and out of the Oxbow livened up the scene as the ice gradually rotted and went out, leaving deep blue water for the graceful black and white Goosanders to disport in.

And then the rains came. The Oxbow and Marsh gradually rose until a level was reached as high as any in the last nine years. The waterfowl dispersed along the edges of the flood waters, their feeding grounds extended

greatly by the increased amount of shore line. As an exceptionally rainy month ended, the waters were receding, and an unusual sight was Song Sparrows walking about and feeding on the floating masses of debris which lay in a broad band along shore.

The Killdeer was recorded for the first time on March 18, the Woodcock on the 21st. Davis Crompton found eighteen Mourning Doves in the water-isolated meadows on the 25th, the same day the Tree Swallows, six in number, made their first appearance, brief though it was. Phoebes arrived on the 20th, while our first Fox Sparrow was seen on the 23rd. The Meadowlark arrived around the 14th, singing that morning for the group from the Recreation Conference at the University of Massachusetts as they made their annual visit on that date. Another group visit was that of the Berkshire Section of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Some thirty strong, they briskly walked the trails on a cold, windy March 8.

Early in the month, the Sanctuary received from Jack Kitson, of Easthampton, the gift of a display case. This was refurbished somewhat in our shop and legs added. It is planned to use it in the barn for exhibits not likely to stand up under repeated handling. Also received with appreciation at this season was the gift of fifty dollars from a Friend of Arcadia for the purpose of increasing and improving our plantings. The bundles soon should be arriving from the nurseries, as the transplanting season is upon us.

During the winter and early spring much work was expended on more labels for our trailsides. The stamped aluminum signs we are able to make through the courtesy of Smith College have been so well received by our visitors that many more are planned. A better standard for these signs was achieved when Earle Thomas, of Holyoke, a member of Arcadia's Sanctuary Committee, made available a supply of thin pipe. We gratefully acknowledge still another supply of this material, which will take care of our needs for some time. While "nothing is permanent but change," we feel that this type of trail marker will last long enough to repay the necessarily large outlay of time and effort spent in producing them. Our visitors tell us they add much to the pleasure of their visits.

With a good set of sketches from Alvah Sanborn to go by, two or three boards which were taken into Earle Thomas's basement workshop came out as bottoms, sides, and tops for live insect cages. With a square of glass in front and rear, white paint inside and green stain outside, these are ready for our Day Campers and for exhibits in the trailside museum. One cage already contains a large cocoon found by young Raymond Johnstone.

Wood frogs called the tune this year on March 20, the peepers joining them the following night. With peepers, crocus, and the sweet smell of *Daphne mezereum*, a new season is with us.

EDWIN A. MASON

IPSWICH RIVER. To use the hackneyed word that correspondents employ in reporting the vocal efforts of sopranos, etc., that are inflicted on us, a Northern Shrike "rendered" for over a week in March. From his stance in the top of a small tree, he completely paralyzed a flock of Purple Finches with his song and presence. It is a long song, often continuing for half an hour. It is imitative, for one can detect the notes of a Catbird. Does he use it for decoy purposes? Mostly it is harsh, but occasionally pleasing with gurgling soft notes, and it is interspersed with whistles and followed by much twitter-

ing and squealing — a formless and unarranged performance. His nonchalance in delivery is wonderful, and one finds it difficult to believe that this seemingly taciturn, lonely, and perfectly self-sufficient bird has such vocal ability. He apparently enjoys the sound of his own voice.

Visitors have been enthusiastic about the great numbers of Purple Finches at the edge of the upland and the marsh. Theirs is a striking song, a fast, clear, and continued warble. This is another bird inappropriately named, as it is really more magenta in color. I wish that it could be renamed the Rosy Finch, but that name has been preempted by the Leucosticte of the Far West.

This is the tassel time of spring, when the pendulous catkins of the alders, hazels, and quaking aspens decorate the bare branches. On the 7th of March a Woodcock, a wintering Catbird in song, and four Mallards were observed. The 15th brought in the first Wood Ducks, and there seem to be a good many pairs claiming nesting box rights on the marsh. Many Black Ducks and a few Green-winged Teal have been seen daily. On the 16th we dashed out of the house to view sixty-three Canada Geese, whose wild cry heralded their approach. Marsh Hawk and Killdeer arrived the same day. The advent of spring was announced on March 18-21 with Bluebirds, Robins, Tree Swallows, Fox Sparrows, and all the blackbirds, and the exceptionally cloudy and damp weather seemed much brighter by their arrival. On the 20th a Duck Hawk sped over the hilltop. On the 21st we were thrilled to find a Saw-whet Owl peering from the entrance hole of a nesting box. During the few sunny days Mourning Cloaks fluttered about the woodlands and turtles basked on rotten logs in Mile Brook. While working on a trail on the 21st I had a pleasant but short eye-to-eye visit with two deer.

Never have I seen the marsh more full. South and east of Bradstreet Hill the flooded areas stretch for over a mile. And the Bunker Meadows are like a great lake. Along the trails that border the marsh "look-sees" have been cut out to open sweeping views of this interesting area. In time we plan to erect benches so that visitors can sit and idle a while and enjoy the scene.

Our kind friends of the Sanctuary continue to present us with worth-while gifts. Miss Isabel Hoopes, of Newbury, has given us many fine books on reptiles and amphibians for the Sanctuary library and several snake cages and aquariums.

A new Sanctuary booklet has been printed, and the Director will be glad to forward copies on request.

ELMER FOYE

**MOOSE HILL.** The face of approaching spring is kaleidoscopic and her varied and intricate pattern is discernible to many people in many and different ways. The first vernal impulses to strike us may be simple and direct — a recognition of gradual but definite color changes in the earth and sky, a heightening in the blue above, a brighter yellow in the willows and a quickening green in the grass. As another migration lures northward the countless feathered hosts and other infinite numbers of animal forms reawaken from the torpor of hibernation, the presence of the unfolding and expanding season is apparent on every hand.

The Sanctuary wild flower garden that is under renovation and was given much attention last fall through the volunteer efforts of Larry Newcomb, of Needham, displayed several touches of bright color during the past month. Gracing the entrance to the Nature Trail and among the first to spring into

blossom were the tender white flowers of the dwarf snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*). Not far behind in lending welcome color notes to the woodland scene were the pendant Dutchman's breeches, the soft blue of the downy-leaved hepaticas, and the chaste white of the evanescent bloodroots. A spicy fragrance from the same section of the trail could be traced to the ground-loving flower — the special favorite of Massachusetts — the trailing arbutus. An early flowering shrub about the residence to attract much favorable attention was the golden-hued cornelian cherry dogwood (*Cornus mas*).

Down in the marshy area off the Meadowbrook Trail and to the west of the Nature Trail the commingled notes of the newly-arrived Red-wings and emergent spring peepers gave a resounding assurance to the onward stride of spring. On cloudy afternoons and during the balmier nights in the latter half of March the chorus of hylas echoed through the leafless forest with a volume that was inescapable to the most inattentive ear. It was not until the final days of the month that there was blended in with the amphibian performance the guttural notes of the meadow frogs and the delightful tremolo of the toads. Further evidence of renewed activity among batrachian kind was established by the swollen masses of eggs that appeared along the water's edge, some of which were delivered to the Sanctuary threshold for identification by youthful wildlife researchers. Telephone inquiries revealed that damp cellars proved to be very acceptable winter retreats for several species of local salamanders.

A few Evening Grosbeaks were seen during the fore part of the month, but after the 20th none were observed. Juncos and Tree Sparrows dropped off in numbers, but such slack was quickly taken up by migrating Fox Sparrows and White-throats and by the consistently large numbers of Pine Siskins — the last-named being among the most numerous and frequent visitors to the Moose Hill feeding facilities.

The past month will doubtless remain long in the memory of New-Englanders as one of the rainiest Marches of all time with its eleven inches of precipitation. The skies seldom seemed so dour and the ground so sodden for so long a time. The ankle-deep water in the Sanctuary cellar was sufficient to stock a generous quantity of fish, if light and turbidity were no factors. The unprecedented amount of rainfall provided ideal conditions for "Missus Brown," the Sanctuary's tame Black Mallard. After having been admitted to Moose Hill last fall as an injured wild bird, Missus Brown has made a complete recovery and now chooses to remain closely attached to the headquarters area, where she discharges with remarkable aplomb her self-appointed role as avian receptionist.

ALBERT W. BUSSEWITZ

**PLEASANT VALLEY.** March was a month of almost continuous thawing. On the 20th two inches of snow fell, but it was followed at once by rain, and, in fact, from then on until the end of the month there was almost continuous rain. The brooks became swollen by all this water and the dams overflowed. The Beavers decided to take advantage of nature's bounty and attempted to make a new pond across the road by the simple expedient of plugging a culvert. Consequently, every morning from the 23rd through the 28th I trekked down the road in my boots to save the roadbed, for by breakfast time water was pouring over in a roaring torrent. But I have had a lot of experience in unplugging culverts. Time was when I would grit my teeth and

wade into the icy water. No matter how stoutly I gritted my teeth, they always came loose after five minutes and started to chatter like a frightened Porcupine. Now, I nonchalantly take my battering ram — a log about twenty feet long, long enough to reach from one side of the road to the other — and with a rope on one end I whip it up into the pipe and knock out the plug — that is, unless something goes awry. One day I was dressed for school and had to meet "Tommy" Bailey in five minutes in the center of Lenox. I must have been *too* nonchalant, for I whipped my ram clean through the plug of debris, and there it stuck. I couldn't move it either way, no matter how I struggled. Finally, I had to call in the road men or else miss my classes. Oh, no one can say I don't appreciate the trouble the Beavers can give one.

Birdwise, this has been a most interesting month. It started off on March 2, just as I was preparing for bed. I thought I heard a familiar sound. I rushed to the window and threw it open. Clear as a bell came the oft-repeated *too, too, too, too, too,* of the Saw-whet Owl — like a radio time signal. This was my first Saw-whet on the Sanctuary, though we have had them on Greylock often enough. Shortly two Barred Owls opened up with their *who cooks for you-all*, and then we heard the Saw-whet no more. It is reported that Barred Owls are serious enemies of these little fellows.

On March 16 we heard our first Ruffed Grouse drumming. Since then the drumming has been almost continuous, rain or shine. Grouse seem to be as abundant as ever. Drumming rocks and logs are liberally scattered over the area, and each appears to have an occupant. It seems that my fears that the Grouse might have been trapped under icy crusts this winter were groundless.

On the 18th our first Robin appeared, and the next day the first Fox Sparrow and Red-wings put in their appearance. Down in the swamp skunk cabbages were seen pushing their way up through the old dead leaves, while overhead the catkins of the alders were opening and the pussy willows actually were beginning to look hoary with old age. On the 25th two Cowbirds put in their appearance — one is banded, and I hope to trap it shortly to see if it is one that I banded last year.

On the evening of March 29 a visit to the north end of the Sanctuary at about seven o'clock revealed that wood frogs had thawed out enough to give vent to their guttural croakings, although the peepers were still silent. Two Black Ducks flew off from the beaver pond, and over on the edge of the Golden-wing Trail a Woodcock was heard as it swung in small loops overhead, twittering as it went. Then, in the fading light, I saw it plummeting earthward, where a moment later it gave a loud *peent*. This was the field where Bob Crane and I had cleared out encroaching alders last month. Every year the Woodcocks dance and sing here!

On the 31st, two of our older Day Campers, Gene Scott and Joe Morrill, paid me a visit. When we heard the Pileated call from high up on the hillside, that settled our direction of travel. Of course I would like to have a nest ready for the Berkshire Campout, and also I want one for a photographic subject. We didn't see one of the Pileateds, though we did get very close to one. When we had reached the summit, one of the boys called out, "A big hawk!" The "hawk" landed in a near-by snag and proved to be the earliest Turkey Vulture on the Sanctuary records.

ALVAH W. SANBORN

### Thoreau on the Radio May 19

The Boston University Radio Station, WBUR, 90.9 on F.M. dial, is presenting a series of programs on "The Transcendentalists of New England," which includes one broadcast of especial interest to Massachusetts Audubon members and to all readers of the works of Henry David Thoreau. This Society is co-operating with Boston University in the preparation of this broadcast, which will be given at 7:30 P. M. on May 19 and will be repeated on other stations throughout the country.

### Pleasant Valley "Explorers' Club"

The "Explorers' Club," composed of boys between thirteen and sixteen who have shown an especial interest in birds and wild life and whom Director Sanborn knows to be good campers, will meet at Pleasant Valley, June 22-July 3. Besides thorough exploration of the Sanctuary grounds, their program will include several trips off the Sanctuary, an overnight trip to Mount Greylock, etc. Several boys have already signed up for the group, which will of necessity be limited in size and which will be under the supervision of our educational staff for Berkshire County.

### Annual Tour of Newton Gardens Scheduled

The Sixth Annual Tour of Newton Gardens, arranged by the Newton Tribune Foundation, Inc., will be held on May 16, 17, and 18, with an admission charge of \$1.25. All the proceeds from these admissions go toward furthering the landscape plantings at intersections along Commonwealth Avenue in Newton as living memorials to all of the men and women in our Armed Forces. Admission tickets may be purchased at any of the following gardens, which are included in this year's tour.

Chestnut Hill	— Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Sharaf, 50 Beacon Street
Oak Hill	— Dr. and Mrs. George Van Gorder, 70 Burdean Road
	Dr. and Mrs. Francis Newton, 156 Arnold Road
Newton Highlands	— Dr. and Mrs. Allen Brailey, 1308 Walnut Street
	Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Lawton, 35 Roundwood Road
West Newton	— Mr. and Mrs. William Brine, Jr., 16 Pickwick Road
Newton	— Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Feinberg, 215 Franklin Street

### News of Bird Clubs

The SOUTH SHORE BIRD CLUB has scheduled the following field trips for May: May 3, all-day trip to Braintree, Hingham, Norwell for early warblers, led by Sibley Higginbotham; May 9, 5:30 to noon, Braintree, Milton, Canton for rails and warblers, led by Joseph Ulman; May 16, all-day trip to Milton and Scituate for warblers and shore birds, led by George Wilson. All trips leave at 8:00 A. M. from the parking space behind the Adams Academy, Quincy, unless otherwise noted.

Several interesting field trips are scheduled in May by the FORBUSH BIRD CLUB of Worcester, including a trip to Sterling on May 10, led by Mrs. Clara Brown; a Paxton tour on May 13, led by Miss Dorothy Caldwell; a trip to Lake Park, Worcester, on May 16, led by Miss Frances Gillotti; on May 17 a field trip to Tory Fort Lane, Worcester, will be led by the Misses Mary Lou Winters and Louise Sibley; and on May 24 a field trip to Princeton will be led by Kenneth B. Wetherbee.

On May 10 the HOFFMANN BIRD CLUB of Pittsfield will enjoy a breakfast trip to Pleasant Valley Sanctuary; on May 16 the club will visit Bartholomew's Cobble at Ashley Falls; and on May 23, there will be the Annual Century Run, with lunch at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary.

The May program of the WATERBURY NATURALIST CLUB (CONN.) includes a presentation, at the May 5 meeting, of "Flowers and Pastorals" by Mrs. Leone Rice Grelle, poet and photographer. At the May 19 meeting, "British Columbia" will be the subject, with a talk and slides by A. Clayton Scribner, of Rowayton, Connecticut. Mountain scenes and rare wild flowers are features. On June 2 the club will hold its annual banquet. On May 9 Walter Green will lead an outing for finding the first spring flowers.

## Ninth Annual Berkshire Campout

June 5 - 7 1953

Have you ever been on an Audubon Campout? No? Then why not start with the Berkshire Campout? You'll want to return again and again, as have so many others. Every campout is a reunion — an opportunity to meet old friends as well as make new acquaintances. In the bird world you're sure to make new friends, for this higher western part of Massachusetts has a resident bird population that is unique in the Bay State. Last year we saw a Pileated Woodpecker feeding its young. This year — well, we can't promise a Pileated but we certainly will do our best, and we'll undoubtedly see and hear Mourning Warbler, Winter Wren, Bicknell's Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Black-poll Warbler. The magnificent views and the fragrance of the balsams atop Greylock are worth the trip, birds or no birds. When we head down country we shall be trying for Florida Gallinule, Virginia Rail, Duck Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Henslow's Sparrow, and even the elusive Worm-eating Warbler. Whatever the luck — and it is usually good — a pleasant time is enjoyed by all, and good fellowship, good food, and the Berkshires make this a *must* for 1953.

**HEADQUARTERS:** The Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield. Tel. Pittsfield 2-6373.

**RESERVATIONS:** Limited to 50 persons. Reservations should be made in advance with Alvah W. Sanborn, Campout Chairman, Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox, Massachusetts, not later than June 1. No cancellations will be accepted after this date. See Registration Form.

**FEE:** Save money: register early. If registration is postmarked not later than May 24, fee is \$6.00; after May 24, \$7.00. This fee includes guide service, one night's lodging on Mt. Greylock, dinner Saturday evening, and lunch Sunday. For those attending one night on Greylock and one day only, the fee is \$4.50.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Transportation during the Campout will be by private cars and, so far as possible, will be furnished for those requiring it. Transportation to and from Pittsfield must be provided by the individual.

**LODGING:** All attending the Campout must arrange directly for their own lodging (except for Greylock reservations, for which see Registration Form), but this does not constitute a problem, as there is an abundance of rooms, cabins, and motels in Pittsfield and vicinity at this season of the year. Lodging information will be supplied upon request. For those who wish to camp out, camp sites are available at Pleasant Valley and on top of the mountain. For those braving the rigors of a night out on the mountaintop, the lodging fee of \$1.25 will be refunded.

### Program

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5.** 5:00-7:00 P. M. Arrive at Berkshire Museum and register. "The Bicknell's Thrush" trip leaves at 6:15 to spend the night at Bascom Lodge on the summit of Mt. Greylock.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6.** 5:00 A. M. Valley Trip, "The Turkey Vulture," leaves the Berkshire Museum to explore the southern part of the county. Breakfast can be obtained at 4:30 near the museum; a box lunch should also be purchased.

The Mountain Group can obtain *breakfast* and *lunch* at Bascom Lodge. The Tall Spruces and Stony Ledge will be explored, and after lunch the lakes and marshes around Pittsfield will be visited.

5:15 P. M. Both groups meet at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary for dinner.

6:15 P. M. The Valley Group leaves to spend the night on Greylock.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7. The group that took the Mountain Trip on Saturday will this day take the Valley Trip, and vice versa. Starting times will be the same as Saturday. At 1:00 P. M., all groups meet at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary for luncheon, following which the Campout will adjourn.

All trips will start promptly as scheduled regardless of the weather, but may be subject to changes which will be announced at the Campout.

Everyone attending the Campout should bring warm clothing, as the nights and mornings, especially on the mountain, may be cold.

### Registration Form

ALVAH W. SANBORN, *Chairman, Campout Committee*  
Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox, Mass.

I (We) hereby register for the BERKSHIRE CAMPOUT, June 5, 6, 7, 1953. Enclosed is (are) registration fee(s) as checked below. Make checks payable to Alvah W. Sanborn.

Entire Campout (includes lodging on Mt. Greylock)

If postmarked by May 24, \$6.00 per person

If postmarked after May 24, \$7.00 per person

I wish to spend (Friday night) (Saturday night) on Mt. Greylock.

Half of Campout (includes lodging on Mt. Greylock)

Friday night and Saturday only, \$4.50 per person

Saturday night and Sunday only, \$4.50 per person

(Accommodations on Mt. Greylock are limited to eleven persons, consequently campers can spend only one night on the mountain. If all accommodations have already been reserved when your application is received, the fee of \$1.25 will be refunded.)

Please send list of possible places to secure lodging.

I can furnish transportation for ..... extra persons.

I desire transportation for the trips scheduled for ..... persons.

Name ..... Address .....

Name ..... Address .....

### Coming Events at the Berkshire Museum

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

May 1-30. Exhibition. Works by Homer Gunn of Stockbridge, Mass.

May 1-30. Photographs by Clemens Kalischer.

May 2, 8 a. m. Field Trip, Hoffmann Bird Club.

May 2, 3. Salvation Army Youth Conference.

May 6, 7 and 9 p. m. Little Cinema. "The Blue Angel" with Marlene Dietrich.

May 8, 8 p. m. Adams Glee Club Concert, under auspices of Trinity Methodist Church.

May 10, 7 a. m. Breakfast trip to Pleasant Valley Sanctuary. Hoffmann Bird Club.

May 13, 7 and 9 p. m. Little Cinema. "The Brave Don't Cry."

May 13, 8 p. m. Berkshire Museum Camera Club.

May 16, 8 a. m. Trip to Bartholomew's Cobble. Hoffmann Bird Club.

May 23. Annual "Century Run." Hoffmann Bird Club. Time to be announced.

June 3, 4, 10 a. m.-10 p. m. Exhibition, Hooked Rugs, Mrs. I. S. F. Dodd, Instructor.

### "Science" As She Is Taught!

We were recently handed a copy of a mid-state newspaper containing some very interesting (?) natural history material. Following a well-written description of a neighbor's treetop-height feeding station and its colorful visitors, including Evening Grosbeaks, the "columnist" went on with the following astounding information:

"A little sunset cloud, it seemed, had floated down upon the treetop! It was a-flutter with what looked like baby grosbeaks, tiny birds about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, with the same color and markings as the larger grosbeaks. . . . Babies, we exclaimed, this time of year! How strange to have them hatch out in zero weather! Could their tiny wings have the strength to fly such a distance, or were they hatched hereabouts? . . . Finally consulting the experts, we found that these little birds were *not goldfinches* as some suggested, nor were they *babies*! But were probably an *over-late Summer batch of evening grosbeaks*, hence force-hatched, and unable to get their growth before approaching cold weather made rapid growing feathers to cover their bodies necessary. Hence they were small and stunted in size — little runts, you might say. Yet with strong enough wings, though tiny, to fly from their northland breeding range. Perhaps because of their stunted size they were in charge of two larger birds for protection! . . . They have disappeared as mysteriously as they came." (The italics are ours).

To us at Audubon House, such amazing gullibility is hard to understand. What sort of an "expert" does not know that the young of all altricial (tree-nesting) birds are as large in body as their parents before their flight-feathers are developed? Does not this columnist, her editors, or anyone connected with this newspaper have access to any of the many bird books with color plates which are in their public library and local natural history museum? Or was it a case of a columnist "trying to be funny"? We wonder!

### Whooping Crane Decreasing

The Whooping Crane, North America's largest migratory bird, which is seriously threatened with extinction, now shows a wintering population of only twenty-one, according to a report received on March 25, 1953, by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay from Fish and Wildlife Service officials at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Texas Gulf Coast. Most of these unusual birds spend the winter months at Aransas.

Due to the rapid decline of the Whooping Crane's numbers in recent years, three separate aerial surveys were made on and near the refuge during the 1952-53 wintering season. In each case a count of twenty-one birds was made. The last of the surveys, made on March 5, brought the following breakdown of observations: *Aransas Refuge and Immediate Vicinity*. Five adult cranes in a group at the Intracoastal Canal near Cape Carlos. One pair of cranes at the upper end of Mullet Bay. One family of three birds at San Antonio Bay near Mustang Lake. One pair at a small island between Rattlesnake Point and Ayres Island. One crane at Roddy Island. *Near-by Matagorda Island*. One group of three cranes and one group of two cranes on a point across Mesquite Bay from Ayres and Roddy Islands. One family of three cranes between the above point and Panther Point.

In addition to these twenty-one birds, two crippled Whooping Cranes are being cared for at the Audubon Park Zoo in New Orleans. Since last winter's count of twenty-three cranes, two birds have succumbed to gunfire.

## Feeder For Hummers Attracts Other Birds

BY LYDIA AND BOB GSTELL

Two years ago, with much patience, we finally succeeded in getting the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds to come and sip our man-made nectar.

Since our initial success in attracting Ruby-throats around our gardens at Evergreen Sanctuary, Berlin, Connecticut, we have used a wide variety of feeders in a search for one we considered ideal. After exhausting all the models on the market, we decided to make one of our own design. We kept in mind that it must be attractive to the hummingbirds; it must be easy to clean out; it must be easy to fill; it must be sturdy, so that it would not break if accidentally dropped. We had achieved a high incidence of breakage of glass hummingbird feeders, so it was decided the new model should be made of plastic. After many sketches had come from the drawing board, and several pilot models had found their way into the scrap basket, we were satisfied we had a model that was good-looking, would not break, and was easy to clean and refill. The question was, Would hummingbirds like the new feeder?

Several were hung on shrubs and garden stakes around the sanctuary, and in no time at all the Ruby-throats found them. From then on they were constant visitors. Soon we noticed that other birds were being attracted to the red plastic cups. It was decided that if larger species than hummingbirds were going to be customers at our free nectar fountains, a little redesigning was in order the better to accommodate them.

After this was done, we soon ran up a list of visitors which amazed us. We recorded Baltimore Oriole, Catbird, Wood Thrush, Chickadee, Purple Finch, and even Downy Woodpecker. Toward the end of summer, we added a young Rose-breasted Grosbeak to our list.

As we watched the brilliant Baltimore Orioles flashing back and forth across the yard, visiting first one feeder and then another, the thought occurred that with the aid of the nectar cups we might be able to band a few of these gay-plumaged birds. A special single-cell trap was constructed. Inside was hung a completely empty red cup.

With the empty red plastic cup as the only bait, we banded our *forty-second* Baltimore Oriole on August 25. Sixty-seven Catbirds and three Wood Thrushes were also taken by this method.

On September 11, migrating Cape May Warblers arrived to take over the nectar feeders, and six out of the eight observed were banded. The syrup apparently held them over for an eighteen-day stay.

The preferred mixture was made of one part honey to three parts water. At times we did use the more common mixture of one part sugar to two parts water. If, as sometimes happens, honeybees insist on carrying the honey-water syrup back to their hives, the sugar-water mixture would have to be used.

With October close at hand, the "honey pots," as one of our visitors called them, are put away for the season. But when May 1 again rolls around, the syrup feeders will all be hanging in their proper places about the yard. The stage will be set for another exciting summer drama as our gay bird guests sip from our "honey pots."

### For More Birds in Your Garden

Plant trees and shrubs that attract them

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HONEYSUCKLE - BUCKTHORN - MOUNTAIN ASH - JUNIPER  
YEW - HEMLOCK and others**

NOTE: Among the birds attracted to our nursery this past winter were the following:  
White-winged Crossbill - Oregon Junco - Pine and Evening Grosbeak - Redpoll  
Pine Siskin - Mourning Dove - and many, many others.

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### Our New Emblem

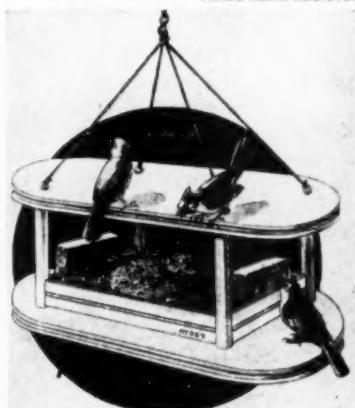
We know you are proud of your membership in the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Why not identify yourself to fellow members and other bird-watchers, nature lovers and conservationists?

An attractive embroidered washable emblem has been prepared for our members, to be worn on caps and/or field jackets. Designed by Miss Jane O'Regan, one of our active members, it is based on Peterson's spirited portrait of the Sea Swallow or Common Tern in flight against a green background, encircled by the words "Massachusetts Audubon Society."

For sale at AUDUBON HOUSE and from our sanctuary directors. Only \$1.25 each.

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## A White Kingbird in Pelham

BY L. M. BARTLETT

On August 24, 1952, Mrs. K. L. Bullis called me to ask if I would identify a white bird which she, her husband, and Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor had located in an open field bordering an old orchard on South Valley Road in Pelham, Mass. When I arrived at the site, it was to see a fairly large flycatcher sitting on a fence post in the field. Through a binocular the large bill, and even the hook at the end, could be seen clearly. The bill and feet were pink, but the eye was distinctly dark-colored, and the folded wings gave the appearance of being quite yellowish. The bird was collected and is now No. 584 in the University of Massachusetts collection. It proved to be an adult female Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*, in the process of moulting, the feathers about the neck being especially loose. The new wing and tail feathers which had just completed their growth, and others which were not yet fully formed, were a primrose-yellow color (Ridgway, 1886, *A Nomenclature of Colors*). The secondaries, tertials, and their coverts had been recently moulted, thus explaining the appearance of the yellowish wing seen in the living bird. The first and second primaries in each wing had completed and nearly completed their new growth respectively, and the third primary still showed an extensive sheath at the base of the feather in each wing. The fourth to tenth primaries were old and very badly worn, as were all of the rectrices except the left central and right third feathers.

There was a single dark tertial covert on the left wing; a single upper tail covert with a dark blotch, and six or seven underwing coverts of each wing which were broccoli brown, with only their tips white. These were the only dark feathers found on the entire body. In the center of the crown, where the orange feathers should normally be, there were several feathers of a lemon-yellow color. The iris color was seal brown. The left tibiotarsus was badly deformed, apparently being rachitic.

I have been able to find reports of seven other white Kingbirds. Of these, only four are recorded from New England, two from Connecticut (Sage et al., 1913, Conn. Geol. Survey Bul. 20 p. 102); one from Maine (W.P. Coues, Auk 39:261); and one from Belchertown, Mass. (Bagg & Eliot, 1937, Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Mass., p. 345), which is not ten miles from the locality of the specimen described here. It is a curious fact that these four are the only ones for which dates are given, and that all of these were seen or collected in August or very early September. The previous record from Massachusetts is of a bird which had brown-washed wings, a brownish-black tail, and a light eye. Townsend (Bul. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1883, 8:126) records a "perfect albino" from Delaware Co., Pa., but every other author mentions at least creamy or yellowish colors on the wings and tail.

Measurements of the bird were as follows: length 195 mm.; wing 105 mm.; tail 70 mm.; tarsus 19 mm.; culmen 18 mm.; gonys 12.5 mm. It should be remembered that the wings and tail were badly worn, so that the first three measurements are probably less than they would normally be.

**Add a Member : Watch Us Grow**



## LOOKING AHEAD: SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

### MAY

#### **ADULT WORKSHOPS in Conservation and Natural Science.**

Elementary Course, Audubon House.  
(cont.) 7:30-9:00 P.M., May 5, 12.  
Field Trip, May 16.

Advanced Course, Audubon House.  
(cont.) 7:30-9:00 P.M., May 14. Field  
Trips, May 9, 23.

Morning Workshop, Audubon House.  
(cont.) 10:00-11:30 A.M. May 5, 12,  
19, 26.

#### **MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, STAFF LECTURES**

May 4, East Bridgewater Garden Club.  
May 5, Andover Garden Club.

May 7, Museum of Natural History and  
Art, Holyoke.

May 8, Seaside Gardeners, Squantum.

May 9, International Institute, Boston.

May 11, Warren School P.T.A., Welles-  
ley Hills.

May 11, Newburyport P.T.A.

May 12, Women's Educational and In-  
dustrial Union, Boston.

May 19, Harwich Port Woman's Club.

#### **BIRD IDENTIFICATION COURSES**

At Audubon House, Boston. Under Au-  
dubon Staff Leaders. (cont.) All-day  
field trip, May 2.

At Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary,  
Topsfield. Elementary Course under  
Elmer P. Foye. May 6, 13. 7:30-9:00  
P.M.

#### **MEETINGS AT AUDUBON HOUSE**

##### **Massachusetts Audubon Society**

Staff Meeting, May 1, 9:30 A.M.

##### **Boston Malacological Club**

May 5, 8:00 P.M.

##### **Massachusetts Conservation Council**

May 6, 2:00 P.M.

##### **Massachusetts Audubon Society**

Board of Directors, May 13, 3:00 P.M.

### **OTHER AUDUBON ACTIVITIES**

May 2, At Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary,  
Northampton. Field Meeting of North-  
eastern Bird-Banding Association. All  
interested invited.

May 9, Audubon Day. Open House at  
all Sanctuaries, with guided bird  
walks. 100 State-wide Bird Walks.

May 10. Another Open House Day at  
Ipswich River Sanctuary. In addition  
to birds the interesting trees and  
shrubs of the Arboretum will be  
pointed out on conducted tour.

May 10, Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanc-  
tuary will be host to the Hoffmann  
Bird Club of Pittsfield on the occa-  
sion of the Club's annual breakfast  
meeting at the Sanctuary.

May 14, 21, 28. Sanctuary Evenings at  
Ipswich River Sanctuary. *Rhododen-  
drons and azaleas at their height the  
last week of May and first half of June.*

May 15-17, Connecticut Valley Campout.  
Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, head-  
quarters.

May 24, Massachusetts Audubon Soci-  
ety Field Trip to Essex County, leav-  
ing Audubon House at 8:15 A.M.  
(DST).

### **JUNE**

#### **MEETINGS AT AUDUBON HOUSE**

##### **Boston Malacological Club**

June 2, 8:00 P.M.

##### **Massachusetts Conservation Council**

June 3, 2:00 P.M.

##### **Massachusetts Audubon Society**

June 10, 3:00 P.M. Board of Directors

### **OTHER AUDUBON ACTIVITIES**

June 3-5, Audubon Teachers Conference,  
Mt. Greylock.

June 5-7, Berkshire Campout. Head-  
quarters at Berkshire Museum, Pitts-  
field.

June 4, 11, Sanctuary Evenings at Ip-  
swich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Tops-  
field.

June 14-27, Natural Science and Con-  
servation Workshop, Cook's Canyon,  
Barre, Massachusetts.

## Another Bargain

All who are interested in faunal studies should own a copy of *Notes on the Birds of Groton in Massachusetts*, by Austen Fox Riggs, II, published by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, which we are now offering, while the edition lasts, for only 50 cents a copy.

**ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR.**

*is one of America's leading ornithologists. For many years he has been a member of the staff of the National Audubon Society and now serves as an Audubon Screen Tour lecturer, a leader of Audubon Wildlife Tours, and a bird instructor at the Audubon Camp of Texas. He is a co-author of Carolina Bird Life and is a frequent contributor to Audubon Magazine.*

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## Reviews of Recent Acquisitions

I DRANK THE ZAMBEZI. By Arthur Loveridge. xiv, 296 pages. 16 pages of half-tone illustrations and end-paper map. Harper & Brothers, New York. [1953]. \$4.00.

It is good to see another book of Mr. Loveridge's about his experiences as a naturalist in Africa. Readers of *Many Happy Days I've Squandered* and *Tomorrow's a Holiday* will find in this new book the same rare combination of keen observation, scientific accuracy, philosophical outlook, and human friendliness that the others show. It is good to feel that while each species collected is given its scientific name, there is no writing down to the reader from the heights of zoological learning, and also that the writing — and it is good writing — is natural and is not done for effect. Though Loveridge is a professional herpetologist, curator of reptiles and amphibians in Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology, he is an all-round naturalist as well, and he brought back from this last expedition a collection of 510 birds and 600 mammals in addition to 1680 amphibians and 1120 reptiles, besides numerous invertebrates.

The hunting-ground this time was the British protectorate of Nyasaland and the Portuguese colony of Mozambique, and it was while on a special trip into the latter country that he drank of the muddy water of the Zambezi. He reached that fourth greatest of Africa's rivers after a period of severe drought and found the water so low that he might almost have drunk it dry. The objects of this 1948-49 expedition were two — to study the reptiles and amphibians of Nyasaland, where little or nothing had been done in that field, and to clear up some century-old uncertainties concerning the herpetology of the Tete region on the Zambezi. Here in this new territory Loveridge missed his trusted helper Salimu bin Asmani, the "African naturalist" of his earlier explorations in Tanganyika Territory. He missed, too, the unspoiled forests and the wilder wilderness of Equatorial Africa. Nyasaland and the Zambezi region were in a transition state, with ruined forests and with natives, changed with the changing times, more difficult to deal with. There was much real wild life left, however, and dangers to be encountered from poisonous snakes, scorpions, and centipedes, from hungry crocodiles and marauding leopards and lions.

Loveridge had had intimate experiences with lions when he served as a game warden in Tanganyika, and sometimes there in Nyasaland it seemed as if he could renew such experiences. A band of six cattle-killing lions had been at work near a fruit farm and he spent one night with the local lion-hunter in a tent put up near a kill, but though he and the hunter waited anxiously for the return of the lions to finish their meal, the beasts failed to keep their appointment. Later he did see a lion close at hand but too late to get in a shot before the lion ran away.

Another, and an unexpected, danger came towards the end of his stay, when some superstitious natives, having got the mistaken notion that Loveridge and his helpers had been cutting people's throats, threatened to cut his in return. This situation was soon rectified, however, by a Portuguese commissioner and a native policeman. As a matter of fact, it is hard to imagine anybody less likely to indulge murderous propensities than a man who showed so much tact and real understanding and kindness in dealing with the Africans. Fortunately this episode came after Mrs. Loveridge and her sister had gone home; so they were spared that particular worry. "Mary" and "Billy" had been important members of the expedition for about half of the nine-months stay. Most of the photographs were taken by them, and Billy had served as driver of the lorry.

On the whole, it is not a very pleasing picture that the book gives us of Nyasaland and the wilder parts of Mozambique in drought and in flood, but, as always, Loveridge makes his story an interesting one. I was glad to make the acquaintance of many fascinating lizards, chameleons, geckos, and frogs of strange habits; and since readers of books about tropical Africa are always especially interested in the larger wild mammals, the "big game," they will be glad to meet here, not only the lions and leopards that I have mentioned, but also elephants, hippos, wart hogs, baboons, blue monkeys, hyenas, jackals, and several kinds of antelope, including eland, kudu, duiker, bushbuck, and reedbuck.

I congratulate Arthur Loveridge on another job — a multifarious job — well done.

FRANCIS H. ALLEN

**Bird Food, Books, and Stationery may be purchased  
at all of our Sanctuaries, as well as at AUDUBON HOUSE.**

## REVIEWS

THE POPULAR HANDBOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS. Edited by P. A. D. Hollom. H. F. and G. Witherby, Ltd., London. 1952. 424 pages. \$9.50.

The five-volume work on British birds published through several editions by Witherby of London has long been the standard for ornithologists studying the birds of the British Isles. At Audubon House sets have been procured over the years for many members of the Society, including Roger Tory Peterson, who depended on this work as a guide in preparing his forthcoming *Field Guide to the Birds of Western Europe*. However, the cost of the five-volume work is high for those only casually interested, and it is therefore very gratifying that we can now review *The Popular Handbook*, a condensation into one volume that provides a book of convenient size and yet retains the essential features of the larger edition.

*The Popular Handbook* emphasizes field recognition through characteristic color and marking, as well as habitat, but it also includes sections under each species covering the general habits, food, nest and eggs, and status and distribution. About one thousand birds are included, and, fortunately for the American reader, the classification has been arranged in the Wetmore order to which we are accustomed in this country.

The color plates have been arranged vertically, three to a page, which is much more convenient than the horizontal arrangement of plates in the larger *Handbook*. Two hundred eggs are illustrated, in natural size and color. There are also some excellent black and white sketches of birds in flight, including ducks, hawks, shore birds, and gulls, as well as skuas and jaegers.

In order to keep the size of this single volume within reasonable limits, rarities have not been included. Only those birds which have been recorded more than ten or a dozen times in Britain are described. Nor is detailed treatment given to subspecies, although many are referred to in the text.

So many British birds are either identical with or very similar to those found in North America that this is reason enough to include this excellent treatise in one's private library. Furthermore, there are frequent stragglers from the Eastern Hemisphere that reach our shores, and the *Handbook* will prove valuable in supplying more information about these species than can be found in the field guides of North American forms. C. RUSSELL MASON



## PETERSON FIELD GUIDE SERIES

This famous series, originated and edited by Roger Tory Peterson whose first book is called the "Bible of Ornithologists", has revolutionized identification in the field. They are the basic books for every nature student.

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### From Our Correspondence

#### More About Beavers

The following letter was sent to Judge Robert Walcott after the writer, a friend of our president, had read his comments on the Beavers in "The President's Page" of the April *Bulletin*:

I liked your letter on Beavers and your sympathy with them. I send you my sympathy for them as evinced as follows. A few years ago a pair of Beavers built a house near the entrance of the Chocorua brook to Chocorua Lake. A couple of years later another house was built higher up the brook plus a dam. That dam floods, as I found last autumn, my hardwoods and my sylvicultural prospects. I found that the Beavers are good cutters but bad fallers—they often lodge their trees, and then have to abandon them as work thrown away. So I found myself going round pushing down their lodged trees — to the complete detriment of my forestry prospects. This behavior should be after your own heart. Cambridge, Mass. William James

#### Contented Crossbills

The Crossbills (White-winged) came during the February 10th storm and are still coming to feed daily. My first caller was a lone male, and he was so tame that at first I thought he was sickly, but that was wrong — he was just hungry and friendly. He would perch on a doughnut which I would hold in my hand and eat away perfectly content. After a week he consented to bring his mate, and soon after that a number came — twelve in all. None seemed shy, and if I could have spent more time with them I am sure I would have had more feeding from my hand. They come now each day, but mostly the females, and they don't stay very long — get their fill and leave. I am wondering how much longer they will continue to come!

North Hampton, N. H.

Mrs. Marland E. Knowles

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## From Our Correspondence

### Save Butternuts and Melon Seeds

Several years ago I found that Chickadees were very fond of butternuts, even over sunflower seeds. As I have two of these trees on my place I gather all the nuts that the squirrels don't bury. They are so hard shelled a squirrel has to be extremely hungry to get into these nuts. Each Sunday I try to crack a week's supply and estimate that, despite an open winter this year, my five Chickadees will consume nearly two bushels of butternuts. It is interesting to watch them squat on their haunches to really clean out a large piece of shell in the window feeder, though they often fly away with amazingly large pieces.

During the summer and fall, I dry and save all squash and melon seeds, which they also cherish. These all help to keep down the quantity of bird feed I buy. Also, feeders on a tree some distance from the house are supplied with the bread scraps which attract the English Sparrows and keep them away from the window feeder.

Brockton, Mass. Roy E. Davis

### Mourning Doves are Increasing

I would like to report that all winter we have had with us two large flocks of Mourning Doves, about fifty birds in all. These birds, until about two weeks ago, stayed very near the house and came down to feed on the driveway three times a day. There are birds beginning to scatter about and I hear their voices in all directions. The flocks seem broken up somewhat, although a dozen or so may still come to feed together or are flushed in the edge of the woods. About five years ago, a pair of doves stayed all winter, next year about six doves, and year by year they have been increasing. We feed them corn and some sunflower seed. Many of them will come up to the window sill, and although they flush easily they come back quickly. One year a pair built a nest and raised their young in a cedar tree about three feet from a window, constantly used. . . . Wayland Mrs. Frank C. Paine

### Grapefruit Feeders

In one of the *Bulletins* (March, 1951) I read about filling halved grapefruit skins with bird seed. I have tried this idea out and it is most successful. The grapefruits look gay in the trees and the birds seem to delight in hopping right in and swinging while they eat. But the seed has been almost taken over during the last two days (late March) by a swarm of small bees that look like bumblebee workers. I don't

know why they find the seed so attractive; do you? They paid no attention to honey which we put out near the seed.  
Old Chatham, N. Y. Elizabeth Guy Davis

### Our "Package Week End"

"The 'package' was opened when we turned the knob on the door of the little Red Cottage at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary. It was warm and inviting and once more we felt it was our very own. Two days on the Sanctuary grounds (Jan. 31 and Feb. 1) furnished a perfect recipe for relaxation and we enjoyed the following winter birding menu:

**Appetizers:** Robin, Flicker, Red-shouldered Hawk, Black Duck, Downy Woodpecker, Ruffed Grouse.

**Un-appetizers:** House Sparrows, Starlings.

**Entrees:** Chickadees, Juncos, Tree Sparrows, Blue Jays, Crows, Herring Gulls.

**Desserts:** Evening Grosbeaks, Goldfinches, Purple Finches, Cedar Waxwings.

Our bill of fare was garnished by the pines, the hemlocks, the rockery shrubs, and our appetites were stimulated by crisp walks along the North and South Eskers, across the bridge to Averill's Island and over the Maple Swamp Trail. These walks were spiced with surprise glimpses of a Weasel escaping to its hole in the ground, two Raccoons fast asleep high in a pine tree, a Cottontail bobbing through the underbrush, and a Chickaree, or Red Squirrel, scolding.

"Thank you, Mr. Foye and the Massachusetts Audubon Society, for such pleasant accommodations and for making such a menu possible. We hope to ask for 'seconds' soon."

Burlington and Lexington.

The Gay-Elliotts

### Friendly Pine Siskins

"I was standing by my window-feeder yesterday afternoon (Jan. 12, 1953) when about twenty Pine Siskins flew into the lilac bush. Much to my surprise they all started for the feeder. I stood motionless! They flew all around my head, the whir of wings and sweet callings at such close range a very special treat. Some of them landed on my head, then dropped down to my shoulder and onto the feeding tray. Then, off the tray, back to my shoulder or head, and off to the lilac bush. Back and forth they went for about five minutes, their wing tips brushing my face. A most delightful and breath-taking experience." Ipswich, Mass. Bertha A. Saunders

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### Field Notes

Two BARN OWLS were back again, March 20, at the Lane Farm in Ipswich, according to a report received from Mrs. Lionel Sheppard.

On February 14 Mrs. Carl G. Lund, of Orleans, wrote that a strange bird had been seen at the feeder of a neighbor, Mrs. Leslie Lewis. Mrs. Lund investigated, saw it three times within a half hour, and felt quite sure it was a female WESTERN TANAGER. According to Mrs. Lewis, the bird had been around since February 5. Several people saw it and confirmed Mrs. Lund's identification. It was last seen on February 26. The Western Tanager is accidental in Massachusetts, and any winter tanager should be checked for this species. Sometimes the female is confused with female orioles, but the bill is shorter and not so sharply pointed. During the time the Tanager was around a MOCKINGBIRD was also a visitor at the feeders, and PINE SISKINS, PURPLE FINCHES, CHICKADEES, BLUEBIRDS, and WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS made a delightful picture while feeding.

Miss Lillian C. Fee called us from Chestnut Hill during the snowstorm on April 14 to tell us that ROBINS were lying on the lawn as though they were dead. Ten were picked up and brought indoors. One died, but the others were recovering. Lack of food and severe cold weather during the storm were probably the cause of this condition. Birds which are not seed-eaters find it difficult to get sufficient food during such a storm, but warmth and raw hamburger, some peanut butter, or raisins soaked in warm water should help keep them alive. Miss Fee said that other lawns in the neighborhood were likewise strewn with Robins.

Ted Raymond, of Westwood, a member of the Milton Academy Bird Club, writes that he has noted the dates of the first arrival of the WOODCOCK and also the date that these birds start their nuptial flight. The flight is performed on a pasture adjoining his house. March 16 was the date when the flights started this year, whereas last year the date was March 17.

A few scattered reports of RED CROSSBILLS were received in February after the WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS began to arrive, but throughout March flocks were reported from fifteen localities. Most of the reports received were of from one to seven birds, but in Wayland Richard Hubbard reported a flock of twelve to fifteen, and in Sharon William W. Waldheim saw twenty. Numbers increased after the middle of the month, and in April Mrs.

W. P. Vander Laan had twenty-four at her feeders in Weston.

Mrs. Neal Bogren, of Waltham, says that she uses fifty pounds of sunflower seed a week to feed seventy-five EVENING GROSBEAKS, and seventy-five PINE SISKINS eat half a pound of peanut butter a day.

A NORTHERN SHRIKE was seen at the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary on March 15 by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Halberg. It stayed around for a week, and many visitors enjoyed hearing it sing.

Ten RED CROSSBILLS, along with PINE SISKINS and a DICKCISSEL, visited the feeders of Mrs. Gladys Kaler in Weston on March 30 and again on March 31.

A TURKEY VULTURE was reported from Palmer on March 24 by Mrs. Bertram Wellman.

Mrs. H. P. Weatherbee, of Swampscott, called to say that the YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT which visited her feeder on December 14 was still there on April 6. The bird had survived on a diet of banana, suet, and peanut butter.

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Zerbe, of Belmont, found a SNOW GOOSE at Fresh Pond, Cambridge, on March 31. The bird was in company with three CANADA GEESE. The Zerbés also report a BARN OWL in Belmont on March 14 and 16.

According to a note received from Mrs. Louise Hatch, of Humarock, the YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT was still at her feeder on March 13. The bird up to that time had eaten about six pounds of grapes but had spurned bananas, peanut butter, and raisins. One very cold morning Mrs. Hatch opened some of the grapes and inserted peanut butter, as she felt that the oil might be a producer of body heat.

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### Field Notes

On April 13 a male CARDINAL made several appearances at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Wood in Taunton, sometimes visiting the feeder at the kitchen window.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Fessenden report an ICELAND GULL in Hadley on March 12.

Ludlow Griscom observed an AMERICAN EGRET flying over his house in Cambridge on April 2.

Bob Wood, one of our teachers in the Connecticut Valley schools, writes that on March 18 he saw a MOURNING CLOAK butterfly in Millers Falls, a WOODCHUCK in Hadley, and heard two WOODCOCKS singing at the Lawrence Swamp in South Amherst. Two RUFFED GROUSE were drumming in Sunderland on March 27, seventy SNOW GEESE were seen there on April 2, a BARRED OWL was calling at Quabbin on April 9, and a LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH was seen in Sunderland on April 13.

Willard R. May reports a DICKCISSEL at his window shelf in Cohasset on April 14.

A MIGRANT SHRIKE was seen in Newburyport on April 4 by Mrs. Ruth Emery and party.

Miss Beatrice Butler, of Vineyard Haven, writes that on March 29 she saw sixty GANNETS at Edgartown Great Pond. They were sitting on the water or flying and diving in Crackatuxet Cove. She says it was quite spectacular and unusual to see them over a pond. Although they were probably fishing for herring, she never saw them catch a fish. They had been there off and on for a week.

This is the season of the year when the pop-eyed, long-nosed, chunky little male WOODCOCK displays his charms for the benefit of members of the opposite sex, strutting like a miniature turkey, and putting on a flight song in emulation of the famous Skylark of Old England. Dr. Stanley C. Ball reports a most unusual piece of discernment on the part of a Connecticut Woodcock, which demonstrated its attractions before Miss Hazel Woodcock, of Hamden, in that State on March 4. How did the feathered biped identify the unfeathered one as a member of his clan?

Miss Mabel L. Blanchard, of North Reading, reported a PINE WARBLER on March 22.

Mrs. Lincoln Hall, of Marshfield, observed a BALD EAGLE near her home on March 29 and reported it to us through Miss Julia C. Peterson.

A. Whitman Higgins, of Middleboro, writes us that he noted CAROLINA WRENS gathering nest materials on March 22, and on April 4 he found the nest in a box under a load of flats on a wheelbarrow, where he had brought them after transplanting pansies in the cold frames. He moved the box with the nest to a small bench against the garage, and the Wrens accepted the change without protest. This would seem to be an extra early nesting record, with a clutch of five eggs completed on April 6.

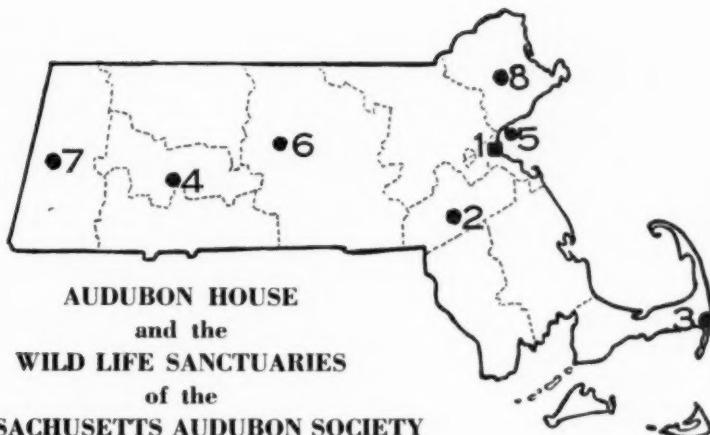
An analysis of the records being received for publication in *Records of New England Birds* indicates an extraordinary number of oriole reports for the period from December, 1952, through February, 1953. With elimination of obvious duplications, forty orioles were reported as BALTIMORES, while six others were listed as possible BULLOCK'S ORIOLES. In practically all cases these orioles were visitors at feeding stations.

The mildness of the recent winter was reflected in the number of CHATS which survived, with the aid of feeding stations, in New England. A total of twenty-one was reported for the three months from December through February, all single birds and most of them occurring at feeders. The Chat at the station of Murray Gardiner in Wellesley, first reported on December 1, was still present April 1.

A number of DICKCISSELS were reported through the winter, from December, 1952, through February, 1953, and this encourages us to believe that some of these birds may linger to nest along the eastern seaboard. With the elimination of duplications, seventy-five of this species were reported, every one of the New England States being represented but most of the records coming from Massachusetts and Connecticut. Practically all of the Dickcissels were coming to feeding stations with flocks of House Sparrows, and in numbers from one to four, except for Saco, Maine, which reported a total of ten.

R. L. Sargent, of Needham, tells us that the WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES started nesting in one his birdhouses in early April. The house they chose was one covered with bark.

Six GREATER YELLOW-LEGS were seen in Marshfield on March 13 by Miss Eleanor B. Barstow. One of these birds was also reported seen in Squantum at the Naval Air Station on April 4 by Miss Jane O'Regan.



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Established 1944. 300 acres meadow, marsh, and woodland. Nature Trails. Memorial and experimental plantings. Studio workshop. Edwin A. Mason, Resident Director. Advisory Committee: David A. Riedel, Chairman.
5. **Nahant Thicket Wildlife Sanctuary, Nahant.**  
Established 1948. 4 acres. On Atlantic Flyway. Hordes of migrating land birds in spring and fall. Trails. Advisory Committee: James T. Kelly, Chairman.
6. **Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary, Barre.**  
Established 1948. 35 acres. Coniferous plantation. Small pond. Rocky gorge. Interesting trails. Site of Natural Science Workshop for leaders and resident and day camps for boys and girls. Leon A. P. Magee, Resident Director. Advisory Committee: Mr. James F. Nields, Jr., Chairman.
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